

**REGULAR MEETING  
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD  
HELD ON FEBRUARY 18, 2015, AT 12:00 P.M.  
CITY HALL, 118 S. CAGE BLVD., 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, PHARR, TEXAS**

On the 18th day of February 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  
Artemio Palacios, Member

**MEMBER ABSENT:** Edgar Delgadillo, Secretary  
Romeo Cuellar, Member

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBER  
PRESENT:** None

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBER  
ABSENT:** Mayor Leopoldo Palacios, Jr  
Mayor Pro-Tem Adan Farias

**STAFF PRESENT:** Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations  
Vanessa Guzman, Administrative Assistant  
Cleo Salinas, Administrative Assistant

**OTHER PRESENT:** Juan G. Guerra, CFO  
Bill Ueckert, City Engineer  
Ruben Rodriguez, Hollis Rutledge & Assoc.  
Javier Cantu, CBP  
Jose Diaz, CBP  
Myrtha Tijerina, City of Reynosa

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-January 21, 2015
4. Crossings and revenues comparison for January 2015
5. Expenditures report for January 2015
6. Project engineer report

7. Director's Administrative Report
8. Discussion and action, if any, on Maraton International Reynosa 2015 Sponsorship
9. Discussion and action, if any, on the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Maquiladora Picnic Sponsorship for \$3,000
10. 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 except Member Cuellar and Member Delgadillo. Member Palacios made a motion to excuse Members Cuellar and Delgadillo. Vice-Chairman Martinez seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

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

Chairman Campero introduced the item. Vice-Chairman Martinez led them in the Pledge of Allegiance, and 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-  
JANUARY 21, 2015**

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Member Palacios made a motion to approve the minutes from January 21, 2015. Chairman Campero 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 JANUARY 2015**

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Mr. Brouwen, Director of Operations stated that the total car crossings for the month of January were 64,707, which represents a (-7,345) cars or (-10.19%) 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 8% or 16,900 more cars; Eagle Pass showed an increase of 18,171 or 10%; Laredo 14,752 or 4% increase; Hidalgo lost 6,009, 3%, Anzalduas had an increase of 989, 1% increase, a total combination of both a loss of -5,020, which represents a -2% decrease; Donna had an increase 2,740, which represents 7.05% increase.

Mr. Brouwen reported that total truck crossings for the month of January were 44,936, and had an increase of 2,505 trucks, which represents an increase of 5.90%. 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 decrease of -942, which represents a -5%, Eagle Pass had an increase of 482 trucks, which represents 5%; Laredo had an increase of 3,968 trucks or 3% increase; the Pharr Bridge shows 2,505 more trucks, which represents 6%.

Mr. Brouwen reported that the total revenues collected for the month of January was \$1,035,161 with an increase of \$18,568 or 1.83% over the same period a year ago. He added that total amount for the four months of the fiscal year were \$4,197,029, which represents an increase of \$251,115, or 6.36%. Several discussions then took place regarding this issue. Chairman Campero asked if they had any comments on how the volume of trucks differ, because the Port of Brownsville is decreasing, and commercial traffic has maintained strong in Pharr, Laredo and Rio Grande. Mr. Brouwen stated that he has talked to several companies and custom brokers and have told him that it's because of the violence in Mexico, and that they have a lot of trucks going back to San Luis Potosi, Queretaro, Guanajuato, Vera Cruz and the natural connectivity to those cities is the Pharr Bridge, so they have trucks that come off load and go back through our bridge, and that is why there is a decrease in Brownsville and an increase at the Pharr Bridge. Member Palacios asked that if they knew when Anazlduas is going to cross southbound. Mr. Brouwen stated that they had a meeting last month which Port Director Efrain Solis made a comment on the southbound, and they all know that on the presidential permit it has a restriction that says that once the Pharr Bridge crosses 60,000 trucks a month or until the year 2015 that is when Anazlduas can cross trucks, well 2015 came and they already tried passing trucks Southbound and Northbound, but the only problem on the Mexican side is that they are not ready, they do not have the road for commercial, so they are saying now that it is going to be in March and talking with Mexican customs they do not know the exact date that it might happen. Several discussions then took place regarding this issue. Member Martinez stated that yesterday the Aduana Mexicana was having issues on their systems. Mr. Brouwen stated that yes, he received a call yesterday from the Aduana Mexicana that their system was down. He added that it didn't come back up until 7:00 p.m. and that they had to move a lot of the traffic on to the bridge and to the aduana to service and accommodate all the trucks on top of the bridge. Member Martinez stated that he would like to congratulate his staff for having the operations continue with a timely manner. Mr. Brouwen stated that they communicate with CBP, the Mexicana Aduana, CAPUFE, and the local Police department to get things moving smooth. He added that they were very helpful patrolling the area on top of the bridge as well as the area by Military Highway, and he would like to thank the Police Department as well for helping them move the traffic faster. Chairman Campero asked that what is the procedure when the system goes done on the Mexican Custom side for 2-3 hours. Mr. Brouwen stated that the

hours of operation for Mexican Customs is from 7:00 a.m -8:00 p.m. for regular cargo and 10:00 p.m. for FAST certified companies, and 11:00 p.m. for empties. He added that when this happens they usually allow trucks to cross late hours to make sure that everything crosses. Several discussions then took place regarding this issue. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

#### **ITEM "5": EXPENDITURES REPORT FOR JANUARY 2015**

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Mr. Juan G. Guerra, CFO reported that the total revenues for the bridge were \$ 4.4 million, the major revenues source is of course the bridge toll revenues at \$ 4.2 million, and that is 48% of our budget. He added that right now in January they should be at 33% of the budget and right now they are currently ahead of the budget schedule, and the major reason for that is that by this time they were expecting Anazlduas to be open, and that hasn't been opened so the bridge is absorbing the excess revenues. Mr. Guerra reported that the expenditures were at \$ 2.3 million, roughly 21% of the budget so they are currently below the budget as far as expenditures, which is a good thing. He stated that to keep in mind that the major expenditure for the bridge is going to be debt service, which hasn't taken place yet but there is also roughly a million dollars in engineering expenditures that was budgeted, chances are that that will be for future projects should the bridge decide to have some of those projects. He reported that currently they are at \$2 million dollars of revenues over expenditures, which is a very healthy bridge fund. Several discussions took place regarding the expenditures report. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

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

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Mr. Ueckert, City Engineer stated that city commission at the last meeting approved the bids for the budget joints, and they will be meeting this afternoon to schedule when they want to do the work. He added that currently as they know there is some work being done on the Mexican side right now and they are trying to see when will be the best time to go ahead and advertise the project and start construction. He also added that the plans show that the work will be done during the night only and that they will go ahead and open up the lanes in the morning, so he will be meeting with Fred and Luis this afternoon to go over the project to see when is the best time to bid the project. Chairman Campero asked if he knew if they were going to do one lane at a time or in sections. Mr. Ueckert stated that it would be a joint per joint, another words it would be if they need to work on a joint that they need to reconstruct or do some work, so they will close down that one lane, but most of it is next to the side walk, most of the lanes that would be closed, but the main lane has about three areas the lanes would be completely closed during the night, but it won't be closed because it will be during the night. Chairman Campero asked that the night is at what time? Mr. Ueckert stated that they would start construction and getting all their equipment and everything about ten o'clock and then they will start the actually construction from 12:00 am to 6:00 am. Mr. Brouwen stated that they are not going to close the bridge until it's time to close it, once they close the bridge then

construction will start and once they open the bridge the construction will stop. He added that the construction on the bridge will not affect the traffic at all and they will have all four lanes open at all times. Mr. Ueckert stated that they plan on using steel plates to cover up the joints if they haven't finished the joint. Chairman Campero stated that after this meeting do they foresee maybe April or May to start the construction. Mr. Ueckert stated that he thinks that construction will probably start in the summer months, that will be the best time that way they do not impede any of the traffic, and they still have to go out for bids which is 30 days and then they need to sign contracts maybe another 30 days, so about two months before they can actually have a contractor on board to do the work, so sometime in May to start construction. Mr. Ueckert stated that the next item is the BSIF, and that GSA, CBP, TX-Dot, and himself have been meeting on a monthly bases by phone to discuss the BSIF. He added that it looks like the construction might be starting sometime late this year in 2015, and construction to be completed in 2016, somewhere around that time. Mr. Ueckert stated that another item is that the city received bids for reconstruction on the streets at Capote Industrial Park and also at the Pharr Las Milpas Industrial Park, the low bid was from Foremost Paving for \$1.6 million dollars, and tomorrow they will be having a pre-construction meeting to go ahead and get a schedule when the contractor will start work out in that area. He stated that it is a complete reconstruction, they are going to tear up the street itself at Capote Industrial Park and also the Pharr Las Milpas Park and build it back up with good caliche base and 4 inches of asphalt, so they will be doing that work out there. Some discussion then took place regarding this item. 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 tomorrow Congressman Filemon Vela will there at the bridge to visit with them, and that he is very interested in the import trade from Mexico to the U.S., and basically they are going to showcase the need of more entomologists there at the bridge, right now we only have one, but they definitely need more because they are the number one crossing in perishables from Mexico to the U.S., Congressman Vela will there at the bridge and they will give him a presentation and it is going to be tomorrow at 3:00 p.m., if anyone would like to join us please let us know so they can put you on the list.

Mr. Brouwen stated that last week they met with Marcos Olivarez from CAPUFE to discuss the construction issues on the Mexican side of the bridge, and he agreed to provide more man power and address the speeding problem that they have on top of the bridge, by patrolling more the area and they are working with the Police Department, SAT, and CAPUFE to make sure that they show more presence on top of the bridge. He added that Mr. Olivarez will act faster in getting the construction done during the night, because on Monday he received a call from Mexican Customs that they wanted from him to close for non-commercial traffic going in to Mexico, because there were a lot of issues on the Mexican side. He added that the area that CAPUFE is working on is completely closed, and that he called Marcos Olivarez who is the General Manager for CAPUFE from Brownsville all the way to Eagle Pass. He added that yesterday in the

morning they had a meeting and he promised to open up all the area that he is working on, so that is the goal to make sure that he works during the night and opens up the area that he works on during the day, that way they can have all four lanes open.

Mr. Brouwen stated that they also presented the Bridge Projects under the 559 Program at the Texas/New Mexico Regional Meeting of the Binational Bridge and Border Crossings Group that was done by TX-DOT in Austin, Texas last week. Mr. Brouwen also stated that they had a conference call followed by a meeting with Margil Maldonado and Joseph Leal of TX-DOT to discuss the funding source for the bridge projects and the clarification of any information regarding the description of the projects. He added that through the 559 Program they submitted four projects, one of them is the improvements of two lanes going northbound in to the port, the gate to gate, they also submitted for additional lanes as you exit the port, those are some of the projects that they talked to Margil from TX-DOT about.

Mr. Brouwen stated that they also had the first Maquila Working Group Meeting with CBP, Transport Companies, and INDEX Reynosa, where they shared and discussed plans to open the Mexico Aduana an hour earlier to match the U.S. Customs hours of operation. He added that what happens right now is that on the Mexican side they open up at seven in the morning, U.S. Customs opens up at seven in the morning and they close at ten at night, and on the Mexican side the aduana open up at seven, but its only for empties and open up at eight for regular cargo. He added that their goal is to make sure that they open at the same time that way customs can have cargo coming from Mexico to the U.S. and have those trucks coming in earlier. He also added that on the weekends they open up at nine in the morning, CBP opens up at seven and closes at four, Mexican aduana opens at nine and closes at four, so definitely they need to improve the hours of operations on Saturday's, also on holiday's as well. Mr. Brouwen stated that he is scheduling a meeting with the aduana, and has already met with some of the government officials for the State of Tamaulipas, from the City of Reynosa, also with Myrtha Tijerina to visit the aduana in Mexico City to make sure that they implement those hours of operation as stated on the free trade agreement, el tratado de libre comercio. Several discussion then took p lace regarding this item. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

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

#### **ITEM "8": DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON MARATON INTERNACIONAL REYNOSA 2015 SPONSORSHIP**

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Mr. Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations stated that he invited Ms. Myrtha Tijerina to give them more information on this event and that this is the only event that they participate with the City of Reynosa and that they did it last year and they would like to do it again this year. Ms. Myrtha Tijerina from the City of Reynosa then began to explain in detail the Maraton Internacional Reynosa event. Several discussions then took place regarding these item. Member Palacios made a motion to approve the Maraton Internacional Reynosa 2015 Sponsorship for \$50,000 pesos. Vice-Chairman Martinez seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

**ITEM "9": DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON THE 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MAQUILADORA PICNIC SPONSORSHIP FOR \$3,000**

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Mr. Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations stated that they have two events that they do with INDEX Reynosa and that this is the first one and the second one is the golf tournament that they do in October. He added that this is for \$3,000 and that they have done it in the past and that it is the same amount that they have done in the past. Several discussions then took place regarding those issues. Member Palacios made a motion to approve the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Maquiladora Picnic Sponsorship for \$3,000. Vice-Chairman Martinez seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

**E. ADJOURNMENT:**

**ITEM "10": ADJOURNMENT**

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

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:

  
ADALBERTO CAMPERO, CHAIRMAN

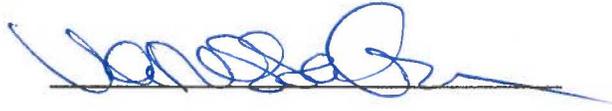
ATTEST:

  
EDGAR DELGADILLO, SECRETARY

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF HIDALGO  
CITY OF PHARR

§  
§  
§

ON THE 18th DAY OF FEBRUARY 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: 3-23-15  
Word/C:BoardMeetings/BoardMtgMinutes2-18-15