

**REGULAR MEETING
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
HELD ON JANUARY 21, 2015, AT 12:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, 118 S. CAGE BLVD., 2ND FLOOR, PHARR, TEXAS**

On the 21st day of January 2015, the Toll Bridge Board met in a regular Bridge Board Meeting. Following is the record of attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Adalberto Campero, Chairman
Edgar Delgadillo, Secretary
Romeo Cuellar, Member
Artemio Palacios, Member

MEMBER ABSENT: Rick Martinez, Vice-Chairman

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

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT: None

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

OTHER PRESENT: Fred Sandoval, City Manager
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge Liaison
Juan G. Guerra, CFO
Karla Moya, Asst. Finance Director
Bill Ueckert, City Engineer
Michael Pruencia, City Attorney
Sergio Contreras, External Affairs Director
Ruben Rodriguez, Hollis Rutledge & Assoc.
Efrain Solis, CBP
Sylvia Briones, CBP
Javier Cantu, CBP
Jose Diaz, CBP

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-December 17, 2014
4. Expenditures report for December 2014
5. Crossings and revenues comparison for December 2014
6. Project engineer report
7. Director's Administrative Report
8. Discussion and action, if any, on authorizing to advertise for bids to repair the Bridge Expansion Joints
9. 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 Vice-Chairman Martinez. Chairman Campero made a motion to excuse Vice-Chairman Martinez. Member Palacios 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 and led them in the Pledge of Allegiance. Sylvia Briones, CBP led the group in a prayer. Chairman Campero stated that before they move on to the next item Mr. Sergio Contreras, External Affairs Director would like to give the board an update on an event that will take place. Mr. Contreras stated that he would like to give the board an update on three activities that they have in the near future, one is that there is a tour of the valley and is hosted by the Rio Grande Valley Partnership Chamber of Commerce, they alternate a tour of the valley composed of legislators and their staff from the State of Texas and this year 2015 as they are in session they are going to come down to the valley and tour Hidalgo County during four days. He added that out of those four days one in particular will be of importance to us at our bridge in Pharr, and that is going to be on Friday and it's going to be a tour of our bridge from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and a bus will bring them in to our facility near the police station and load them on to a trolley and tour the facility and end up at the DPS BSIF section and at that point that is where we are going to make a brief presentation in the sense of what commerce is all about and the importance of our bridge. He added that if they plan to attend, today is when they need a copy of their driver license to be able to allow them to get in to the port. He also added that if they do not want to be part of the tour inside the port, they are going to have groups that are a part of the legislative staff that will be at the bridge office, not everybody will be doing the tour, mostly the legislators and key staff. Mr. Contreras stated that they are expecting about 14 non-valley legislators in addition to some of the valley delegation, not sure who is

going to be there other than Senator Eddie Lucio and Sergio Munoz, Jr. Several discussions then took place regarding the tour. Mr. Contreras stated that in addition to that they have a team from the Homeland Security Committee and they will be coming in on Sunday, that is a private reception and us as a bridge were invited so we are going to work on trying to get someone to that dinner on Sunday. Chairman Campero asked if it was just legislators because he had seen something on the news about Governor Abbott coming down. Mr. Contreras stated yes, that he would be here on Thursday and only for Thursday evening, he is going to fly in and fly back. Chairman Campero asked that what is the reason for the visit or if there was an agenda. Mr. Contreras stated that Gary Rodriguez is working the agenda and will get that to them today. Several discussions took place regarding that issue. Mr. Contreras stated that another event that they have coming up is that in Laredo they have what's called a WBCA Washington's Birthday Celebration Association on Saturday, February 21, 2015, where they are going to recognize Senator John Cornyn as Mr. South Texas Luncheon. He added that for that particular luncheon they are going to ask for support on a purchase of a table for a \$1,000 that give them 10 seats, to be in attendance that will be coming in at the next board meeting to seek approval. He added that in addition to that the Texas Boarder Coalition, which is chaired by Mayor Pro-Tem Farias is also going to be in attendance, so they are going to have the opportunity for them to join them at that luncheon. Several discussions took place regarding the tour, and truck routes to the bridge. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

**ITEM "3": CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES-
DECEMBER 17, 2014**

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Member Palacios made a motion to approve the minutes from December 17, 2014. Member Delgadillo seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. 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 "4": EXPENDITURES REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2014

Chairman Campero introduced the next item and 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 "5": CROSSING AND REVENUES COMPARISON FOR DECEMBER 2014

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Mr. Brouwen, Director of Operations stated that the total car crossings for the month of December were 73,501,

which represents a (-7,451) cars or (-9.20%) compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen then showed a graph of all the car crossings from all the bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen reported that total truck crossings for the month of December were 40,846, and had an increase of 4,645 trucks, which represents an increase of 12.83%. Mr. Brouwen then showed a graph of all the truck crossings from all the other bridges across the board. Member Palacios asked if Progreso has the same inspection facility as the Pharr Bridge does for the trucks. Several discussions then took place regarding Member Palacios question. He stated that the total revenues collected for the month of December was \$1,044,420 with an increase of \$23,652 or 2.32% over the same period a year ago. Mr. Brouwen stated that it was a good month on collections and a very good month for the trucks as well. Several discussions then took place regarding the crossings and revenues report. Member Cuellar asked if Donna was crossing any empties. Mr. Brouwen stated that right now no, but they are working on it. He added that they want to cross empties southbound like Anzalduas, and that he knows for a fact that Donna right now does not have anything and are definitely working on it right now, and that Anzalduas was delayed because they do not have the construction on the Mexican side to do the inspection for empties, because in Mexico even though they are empties Mexico still does inspection, so they delayed till March of this year depending on the construction. Chairman Campero stated that if he had any comments on the decrease of the cars. Mr. Brouwen stated that since Donna and Anzalduas opened plus the safety on the Mexican side, all those factors play a role as to the crossings that they have at the bridge. Chairman Campero stated that probably also the construction that is starting on the bridge. Mr. Brouwen stated that yes, they do have construction on the Mexican side, and that he has been calling Mr. Octavio to meet with him, as the board might remember he brought him at the last meeting to give an update on the construction, and he basically told them that the construction would be done at night and that the bridge would be open during the day and so far that area has been closed. He added that he is definitely going to set up a meeting for Friday or Monday to meet with him and discuss this issue, and from there his idea is to go and talk to the main guy in Cuernavaca, if they do not resolve these issue on the construction they are going to have visit with the main office, which is in Cuernavaca. Several discussions then took place regarding this issue. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

ITEM "6": PROJECT ENGINEER REPORT

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Mr. Ueckert, City Engineer stated that what he has for the project engineer report is to authorize to advertise for bids on the expansion joints on the bridge itself. Mr. Ueckert then explained what exactly this project was. He added that this is a project that is also going to be done at night but on the US side and it is very specific on what times they are going to be working at night, again they have to be out by the morning on these expansion joints construction. He added that he does not see a problem with them doing any work during the day, they will be completed at the time that is indicated on the plans. Mr. Ueckert stated that construction cost is about maybe two-hundred thousand dollars and it will be about three months of construction work that needs to be done. He added that Fred and he were talking about when to advertise the project so that it would not jeopardize closing

down the bridge, so they are looking at some time in March. Several discussions then took place regarding the joints. Member Cuellar made a motion to approve the authorization to advertise for bids. Member Palacios seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. 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 they had a couple of meetings for the month and one was with the State of Tamaulipas and the Director of the Aduanas on the Mexican side at our bridge to talk about the projects that they are working on, the connectivity to the main highway to the aduanas, also there are talks about doing improvements inside the aduanas by adding some more lanes. He also added that another issue that they spoke to them about was opening up earlier at least one hour so they can have trucks on the bridge on the US side because Customs opens up at 7:00 am and the aduanas opens up at 7 but only for empties and not for full commercial, and our goal is to talk to the director and talk to the main aduanas in Mexico City to hopefully improve the hours on the Mexican side. Mr. Brouwen stated that they met with the Arquitecto Bustamante from the Planning & Zoning from Reyonsa, because they are working to improve the Colosio from a two lane road to a four lane road, which will alleviate the flow of traffic of trucks leaving and entering the aduanas on the Mexican side. He also added that they had a conference call with DOT and CBP to discuss the connectivity of the port from the aduanas to the BSIF, and basically the comments were that they are still working on the plans, and have finished the design on the connection to the BSIF, and hopefully they can start working on the construction in about four months. Several discussions took place regarding that issue. Mr. Brouwen stated that they also met with the Secretario de Turismo from the State of Sinaloa, Mr. Francisco Cordova and Turismo Director Sergio Romero who were here to promote the city and the corridor from Culiacán to Matamoros, which right now ends in Pharr, so we are definitely going to go and visit Sinaloa to promote our bridge as well and to jointly work with them to promote the State of Sinaloa and the corridor, and to promote the Pharr International Bridge as well. Several discussions then took place regarding these issues. Mr. Luis Bazan, Industrial Development Manager stated that basically he wanted to go back and talk about the Overweight Corridor because last month the board did request for them to invite Pilar Rodriguez from the HCRMA, he was invited but could not attend due to conflicting schedules, but he was able to talk to him and get a couple of answers. He added that one of the things that they wanted to know was Information on neighboring cities that have applied to be included on the overweight corridor project, and his answer was that all amendments to the corridor have been approved both by TX-DOT and the HCRMA, and the HCRMA is waiting final administrative approval from TX-DOT to begin issuing overweight permits on the additions to the corridor. The HCRMA anticipates final approval will be received by January 2015. He added that then again that is yet to be determined because normally these type of things do not happen on the deadline, they take a couple of months after, so we will keep the board posted on that. He added that another question that he had for Mr. Rodriguez was that if there were any lessons learned, trials and errors, etc. since companies started buying their permits, and this is

what he had to reply. Most of the issue with permits have been related to Brokers attempting to apply for permits for motor carriers. All Brokers must create an account online and there is an online website that they have, and then they have to contact the HCRMA directly and once they do that they will receive Broker access for permits and unless the RMA grants access, the Brokers will not be able to apply for permits online. He also stated that they asked him about the extension of the connector on 281, and they do not have any information on that, so they will get with TX-DOT and get the board an update for next months meeting. Several discussions then took place regarding this issue. Mr. Bazan stated that he just wants to get the board up to speed and that last month they talked about inviting the board to be a part of our marketing strategy. He added that they want to set up a marketing workshop, because they already have a few ideas and what they do not want to do so much this year is a lot of advertising in magazines and things of that nature, of course they are going to the end user and have been doing that for the last year and a half or so, but they also want to include the board in the marketing strategy and they want to set something up for maybe the beginning of February so he will be sending them an invitation to see what day works best for everyone, that way they can have a two-hour workshop and just kind of feed off of each other and shoot around some ideas and go from there. Chairman Campero stated that he saw a survey that was done in 2014, and one of the big things that he saw was the 50 most dangerous cities in the world and 8 were in Mexico, and that Reynosa and Matamoros were not on that list. Several discussions then took place regarding Chairman Campero's comment and the marketing workshop. Member Delgadillo stated that there is a website online called JJKeller where people can order permits online for any state, whether it's like a day permit, fuel permit, because sometimes your licensed to run certain states, and if you happen to go somewhere, where you're not licensed you can just call JJKeller or go online if you have an account already set up and you can buy a permit for almost everything that has to do with transportation that requires a permit or special permit. Several discussions then took place regarding this issue. Mr. Bazan stated that Bridge Connect is back in session, it is their monthly trade sessions that they started doing last May and they have been very successful at them and averaging about 70 participants per month, so they are going to kick off next week on the 29th with an update from the bridge, with Fred, Ezequiel and himself talking about the projects and also getting them involved with the planning throughout the rest of the year, they want to make sure that they are catering to the trade industry so they want to hear from them and see if there is anything new out there, so they are going to provide them with a list of potential trainings and guest speakers and we'll be able to choose from that. He added that they are kicking off next week on the 29th and everyone is invited it's a free of charge and they do this as a value added program for our trade industry, for our clients and they are also doing a business appreciation luncheon that same day, it's from 2-4 pm at Tierra Del Sol. Chairman Campero asked that with the new bridge trade center that if they are going to have, is that where it's going to be moved to from here on out. Mr. Brouwen stated that it might, that there are some changes to it and they will bring it up on the next agenda. Several discussions then took place regarding Chairman Campero's comment and on the trade sessions. Mr. Bazan stated that there are two upcoming trips in March, and they wanted to make sure that if anyone wants to attend these trips that they need to let us know in

the next few days, by the end of the this month because they are in March, one of them is the Encanta Sinaloa Event, which is in Culiacan, Sinaloa and that is scheduled for March 12-13, the other one is Viva Fresh that's basically a PMA its done by TIPA Texas International Produce Association and that is scheduled for Austin, Texas on March 26-28, so again if anyone wants to attend please let us know by the end of this month so we can get you on board. Several discussions then took place regarding the trips. Mr. Bazan stated that they are going to issue the board a master calendar and that in that calendar they put together all the dates for every month any travel plans that they have so that they can start looking at it and letting them know what you want to attend, of course every month they will bring an update. Mr. Brouwen stated that in that calendar they will also have all the meetings scheduled as well. Chairman Campero stated that whether he goes or someone else goes representing the bridge, if they can write a little one page report of what they saw or what was discussed, the important parts. Discussions took place regarding Chairman Campero's request. Mr. Brouwen stated that they are working together with CBP, to form a working group to work with INDEX and the trucking companies to make sure that they expedite the flow of traffic inside the port. Efrain Solis, Port Director for CBP then gave a brief explanation. Member Cuellar asked if there has been any work on Hi-Line. He added that he brought that up about two months ago and that if he had a business there or even if he'd traveled through there, it's terrible, there are so many pot holes there. Mr. Brouwen stated that he knows that the city is trying to get monies allocated. Several discussions then took place regarding Member Cuellar's comment. Fred Sandoval, City Manager then began to give brief explanation about the process for Hi-Line Road and invited the board to the Grand Re-opening of Toyota of Pharr and Honda of Pharr. Several discussions then took place regarding those issues. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE:

ITEM "8": DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON AUTHORIZING TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS TO REPAIR THE BRIDGE EXPANSION JOINTS

Item was discussed in Project Engineer Project.

E. ADJOURNMENT:

ITEM "12": 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 21st DAY OF JANUARY 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: 2-18-15
Word/C:BoardMeetings/BoardMtgMinutes1-21-15