

## ALAMO REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY

Meeting, December 14, 2005, Noon, in the Greater Kelly Development Authority Main Conference Room, 143 Bill Mitchell Blvd., Suite 6, San Antonio, Texas

### MINUTES

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** Chairman B. Thornton called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. All members were in attendance with the exception of H. Munoz.
2. **Approval of AlamoRMA November 9, 2005 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes.** *W. McBride made the motion to accept the minutes of the November 9, 2005 board of directors meeting as presented. J. Reed seconded. Motion passed.*
3. **Briefing on the Loop 1604/US 281 CDA Process.** F. Holzmann, TxDOT Engineer; and J. Brown, TxDOT Assistant District Engineer, presented this item. F. Holzmann said the initial review has been performed by the review committees. Proposals have been ranked and are being sent with recommendations to the next level of review. Following the second level of review, the proposals will be forwarded to the steering committee which is the third review level. A short list of providers is expected by the end of December 2005. The participation of RMA board members on the review committees who have signed confidentiality agreement has been successful. This participation and preparation enables RMA board members and staff to become more familiar with the review process for future CDA proposals expected to be received by the AlamoRMA.

Citizen speaker Terri Hall, Texas Toll Party, spoke of her group's concern of having foreign corporations use private lands already paid for from gasoline taxes. These corporations will benefit by collecting tolls for many years after the toll lanes have been paid for.

J. Reed commented on the favorable reception received by RMA board and staff in Austin during the review process. He said members were treated as part of the committees and their input was solicited. He said he felt like an active participant in the review process.

R. Thompson commented on the difficulty of arguing for or against a CDA process since there are so many undefined issues. He said the experience and knowledge gained from participating in the review committees will be invaluable.

F. Holzmann said activity has begun on the US 281/Loop 1604 project with brush clearing. Construction is expected to begin in January 2006.

J. Brown informed the board the US 281 project north of Loop 1604 was let for construction in September 2005. It is part of a toll system that is in agreement with the plans of the MPO and the RMA. It is one of several projects. Adding capacity at an earlier date is a departure from the former method of "pay as you go" using gasoline taxes. She provided an example of the Loop 410 project from Ingram to IH 35 on the northeast side that has been under construction for at least 10 years. It is being constructed in sections using funds as they become available. This project is scheduled to last another five years before final completion.

Chairman Thornton asked TxDOT staff to convey the RMA's appreciation to Texas Transportation Commission for the partnership. He closed by saying TxDOT has demonstrated its commitment to San Antonio and Bexar County by the heavily funded investments in projects now under construction.

**4. Discussion and appropriate action to authorize the executive director to negotiate and execute the financial assistance agreement for the \$7.5 million CDA Toll Equity Loan.** T. Griebel provided background information saying this item has been on the board's meeting agenda for the past several meetings. The Texas Transportation Commission has had a second reading and has authorized TxDOT to loan the AlamoRMA \$7.5 million through a financial assistance agreement. He requested the board consider authorizing the executive director to negotiate the agreement.

*J. Reed made the motion to authorize the executive director to negotiate and execute the financial assistance agreement for the \$7.5 million CDA Toll Equity Loan. R. Diaz seconded. Motion passed.*

**5. Briefing, discussion and appropriate action on the Public Information Initiative – Phase IA.** P. Irwin began his briefing on this item by referring board members to Exhibit B in their board packet. He discussed Phase IA which outlines the goals. Work was performed by HNTB and Taylor/West which included a citizens' forum and survey. From the information obtained a more detailed plan has been developed. P. Irwin reviewed elements of the plan. The objective of the plan is to get a clear message out to the general public.

Chairman Thornton called for a motion to authorize funding for the Public Information Initiative – Phase IA. *J. Reed made the motion to authorize the amount of \$300,000 to fund Phase IA of the Public Information Initiative. R. Diaz seconded.*

T. Brechtel, incoming Executive Director, said she sees the Public Information Manager position being filled as early as January 2006. The position is a key part in the public relations effort to provide a comprehensive campaign for the AlamoRMA. This position along with the expertise of HNTB and Taylor/West is expected to give a clear and concise message addressing transportation and toll lane concerns.

V. Boyer, SAMCo Executive Director, said his organization represents both public and private entities and fully supports the work of the AlamoRMA.

L. Shumway, HNTB, said this is the next part of a multi-phased program developed with the RMA staff to form a scope of services. The position of the Public Information Manager will help focus the Public Information Initiative.

T. Griebel shared the job announcement with board members and asked for interested and qualified individuals to consider applying for this position.

W. McBride asked about target dates for some of the activities outlined in the Phase IA plan. Information provided in response indicated that the final plan will have established dates for completion or addressing particular issues.

Citizen speaker Terri Hall, Texas Toll Party, said her organization does not feel that spending money on a PR campaign is necessary. She said citizens do understand what the RMA is promoting and the Texas Toll Party is opposed. She cited a project that was approved and scheduled for completion in 2004 is now being considered as a toll lane project.

Citizen speaker Byron Juen, resident in the 281 and Bitters Rd. area, spoke about the money he will spend to compete with the funding being appropriated by the RMA in getting out his message to citizens.

Citizen speaker Mike Wikman, resident of Woods of Shavano, talked about toll roads not being the answer to the transportation and mobility issues. He does not see this effort being productive and feels most of the people he has talked to are against toll lanes.

*Motion passed.*

T. Griebel asked permission from the chair to introduce the new MPO representative. He introduced Sid Martinez who is the interim director of the MPO. He has been serving as the senior transportation planner for the MPO.

**6. Briefing, discussion and appropriate action on the Annual Audit of the AlamoRMA.** T. Griebel presented background information on the annual audit required by state statute. Initially, the RMA had requested a waiver from TxDOT for the first three months of operation. The RMA went through a RFP bid process and selected the CPA firm of Garza/Gonzalez and Associates. J. Lopez introduced senior partner of the firm Rene Gonzalez, CPA, who also introduced his partner and members of their firm. Garza/Gonzales reviewed accounting policies, general policies and procedures, compliance with organizational structure, and internal controls. The audit review covered a fifteen (15) month period ending September 30, 2005. He called the board's attention to the section titled MD&A (Management, Discussion and Analysis). He mentioned this was the first RMA audit, there were no funds generated, and the RMA operated on loans from Bexar County and the City of San Antonio. R. Gonzalez said the audit did not encounter any difficulties, there were no audit adjustments, no disagreements with management, and the RMA was found to be in compliance and received the highest

rating possible. R. Gonzalez also said the audit report makes recommendations for the future in view of the projected growth of the AlamoRMA.

In conclusion, T. Griebel thanked J. Lopez for her diligent and professional work. The success and quality of the audit report results can be attributed to J. Lopez' high standards.

*W. McBride made the motion to accept the Annual Audit of the AlamoRMA performed under contract by Garza/Gonzalez and Associates for the 15 month period ending September 30, 2005. R. Thompson seconded. Motion passed.*

**7. Discussion and appropriate on the financial statements for the period ending November 30, 2005.** J. Lopez, Comptroller, presented the financial statements for the period ending November 30, 2005. She reviewed the Balance Sheet, described the Assets, Liabilities and Fund Equity; the Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Deficit, explained the monies allocated for each column; and the Statement of Cash Flow.

*R. Thompson made the motion to accept the financial statements for the period ending November 30, 2005. R. Diaz seconded. Motion passed.*

**8. Citizens' Communications.** Citizen speaker Nikki Kuhns, resides in the area of US 281 and Evans Rd., said her concern was about the two year terms established for members of the RMA board.

Citizen speaker Terri Hall, resident of Comal County, talked about the cost of building toll lanes vs. maintaining present highways. She reviewed public information data in her presentation.

**9. Presentation/briefing – Executive Director Report.** T. Griebel reviewed the calendar for board meetings scheduled for 2006 and he reported on the move of the RMA offices to the Frost Bank Building located at US 281 and Thousand Oaks. The move is expected to be completed by the end of December. Arrangements have been made to continue holding the RMA monthly meetings at Kelly USA.

He also asked P. Irwin to review a report prepared by the TBTTA on the national vision of transportation.

In closing, T. Griebel thanked members of the staff, consultants, transportation partners, and board members for their hard work and how they have made his job an enjoyable experience. He singled out the working relationship from all parties as being very important and necessary for the growth and development of the RMA. He said he leaves knowing the RMA will continue in the expert hands of Terry Brechtel.

**10. Executive Session.** Chairman Thornton recessed the board meeting at 2:10 p.m.

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The Alamo Regional Mobility Board of Directors met in Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Texas Government Code: Subsection 551.071(1). Consultation with Attorney—Consultation with and advice from legal counsel concerning pending/contemplated litigation, settlement offers and negotiations, and other legal issues.

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Chairman Thornton reconvened the meeting at 2:30 p.m. He advised the public the board had met in executive session to discuss a legal matter with the RMA general counsel and that no action was taken by the board.

There being no further business to come before the board, Chairman Thornton adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

  
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BILL THORNTON, CHAIRMAN

DATE ADOPTED: 1/11/06

I hereby certify that the above foregoing pages constitute the full, true and correct minutes of all the proceedings and official records of the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority at its regular meeting on December 14, 2005.

ATTEST   
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M. CRISTINA RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY/TREASURER