

Alamo Regional Mobility Authority

*Meeting February 10, 2011, 1:00p.m.,
Al J. Notzon III Conference Room
Alamo Area Council Of Governments, at 8700 Tesoro Drive.*

Minutes

1. **Call meeting to order.** Chairman Thornton called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. All Board members present with one vacancy. Note – Tommy Calvert, Jr. present but did not vote.
2. **Approval of minutes from the Regular Board of Directors Meeting of January 13, 2011.** R. Thompson made the motion to approve the minutes as presented to the Board. R. Diaz seconded. All voted in favor.
3. **Discussion and appropriate action on a resolution accepting the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Annual Financial and Compliance Report of the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority (Terry Brechtel/Milo Nitschke) (Resolution No. 11-02).** T. Brechtel introduced the item and Rene Garza and Jason Hyde with Garza Gonzalez, the RMA's auditors, and stated that the report was included in the agenda packets but they are delivering hard copies. Mr. Gonzalez stated that it is a positive report with an unqualified opinion and now that the RMA has ARRA funds there are additional reporting requirements. He also stated that the RMA is complying with federal and state reporting requirements, there are no questioned costs, no finding on administering the funds, all internal controls are addressed. Mr. Gonzalez also stated that the form of the report is different than last year because of the federal funding so there are more detailed requirements. Mr. Gonzalez also stated that they received full cooperation from staff with no restrictions to access the documents. Mr. Gonzalez stated that he has been in practice for 35 years. R. Diaz made the motion to approve the resolution as presented, R. Rodriguez seconded. R. Diaz stated that it went through the Finance Committee and although they didn't formally meet, he spoke with the members about it, and he understands it is a clean, good report. R. Rodriguez stated that there are no issues of non-compliance. Chairman Thornton asked that the report be put on the Alamo RMA website. R. Thompson stated that he has been on several boards that Garza Gonzalez has audited and asked what their most significant finding was, any improvements needed, anything the RMA has missed. Mr. Gonzalez stated that there is nothing and that the prior discussions regarding costs relating to assets in progress was researched and they are comfortable with how the Alamo RMA staff is handling the capitalization of personnel costs. T. Brechtel stated that last year they made a comment that led to the acquisition of new software and Mr. Gonzalez stated that the staff is now more versed in allocating costs correctly and restatements were done to allow more costs to be capitalized. R. Thompson asked how the definitions he uses are memorialized and Mr. Gonzalez referred him to pages 4 and 32 regarding capital assets and testing. A. Downey asked why the RMA is not yet classified as low risk for federal requirements and Mr. Gonzalez stated that it is because this is the first year of receiving federal funds and it requires a two-year history. All voted in favor of the resolution.

The Chairman introduced the RMA's new board member, Tommy Calvert, Jr., who thanked the Board and stated he looks forward to working on issues to benefit the community.

4. **Presentation and discussion on VIA's long range comprehensive transportation plan (Terry Brechtel).** T. Brechtel introduced Keith Parker, President and CEO of VIA, who made a power point presentation (see attached). Mr. Parker introduced Board member Bill Martin, Priscilla

Ingle, Christina Castano, and Brian Buchanan. Mr. Parker discussed VIA statistics, cost effectiveness and productivity, growth in transit, ridership growth, positioning for the future. Mr. Parker then introduced Brian Buchanan who discussed the proposed benefits of the long range plan, the technical advisory committee, mode choices, and the major components of the plan. Chairman Thornton stated that the issues of congestion and funding are common to the RMA and VIA and the two agencies should help each other and the RMA has powers that can benefit VIA like using excess toll revenues to subsidize other transportation projects in the local community. Chairman Thornton stated that VIA should view the RMA as a partner and potential source of revenue. J. Reed stated that we need to look at local entities and the efforts for cost control in marketing and we need to be forward looking not just the cheapest/cost savers for solutions. R. Thompson stated that we must work with others and be out front as leaders and take note that other cities with tolling revenue use those funds for other local projects especially since there are no other funding sources. R. Thompson asked if VIA is going to put a transit center in the city and Mr. Parker answered yes and they have determined there are too many buses downtown which increases congestion. There was a discussion on programs to increase ridership. R. Thompson asked where rail could be brought into the city to interact with the local transit system and Mr. Buchanan stated they are working with Lone Star on that issue and they have a potential location. Mr. Calvert asked several questions regarding rider surveys and increased ridership and Mr. Parker provided information regarding increases. Mr. Calvert also discussed research on toll roads and mass transportation use and what the priority for corridor selection is. Mr. Parker discussed the process. There was also a discussion on the bus rapid transit implementation and future additions. R. Diaz stated that working together helps the community and especially on the funding issue. R. Thompson stated that we are all constrained by finances and tolling is a necessity with financially constrained plans but the mission is mobility. Chairman Thornton asked Mr. Parker and Mr. Martin to let the VIA board know that the RMA is incorporating space for VIA and are willing to partner for funding.

[R. Rodriguez left the Board meeting]

Citizen Jack M. Finger spoke on this item and welcomed Mr. Calvert to the board and questioned the VIA brochure and the number of jobs created and the costs of the projects.

5. **Discussion and appropriate action on a resolution approving the Alamo RMA 2010 Annual Report (Terry Brechtel/Leroy Alloway) (Resolution No. 11-03).** T. Brechtel introduced the item and stated that this action is done annually and incorporates the financial report previously accepted by the Board. Leroy Alloway made a power point presentation (see attached) showing the report, stating that it is done completely in house and in a new format with a different approach for each project and its achievements. L. Alloway stated that it has been through Planning Committee and there is a March 31 deadline to release. J. Reed made the motion to approve the resolution, A. Downey seconded. J. Reed stated that it has a different look, is crisp, direct and brief. R. Thompson asked that the sentences be reviewed carefully to make sure they are correct. T. Calvert asked about congestion, future development and whether it is possible to participate with developers and the city in future planning efforts. J. Reed stated that the current MPO model, which affects our studies, shows no growth outside of Loop 1604 after 2015. T. Calvert stated that there needs to be a new approach for ensuring that improvements go along

with development. There was additional discussion on this issue. All voted in favor.

6. **Discussion and appropriate action on the financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2010 (Terry Brechtel / Carrie Conner).** Carrie Conner stated that the Finance Committee had reviewed these statements prior to the last Board meeting due to timing issues and she reviewed the balance sheet statements, the statement of capitalized costs, the statement of revenue, expenses and changes in fund deficit, and the statement of cash flow. R. Diaz stated that they had been reviewed and discussed in the Finance Committee meeting. R. Diaz made the motion to accept the Financial Statements as presented to the Board. R. Thompson seconded. All voted in favor.
7. **Executive Director's Report.** T. Brechtel reviewed the calendar items and upcoming events. Brian Cassidy gave a legislative update on the RMA clean up bill, transportation reinvestment zone bill, primacy, environmental reviews, and CDA authority.
8. **Citizens' Communications.** None.
9. **Executive Session.** The Board convened in Executive Session at 3:10 pm to discuss pending litigation. The Board re-convened the regular meeting at 3:40 pm.
10. **Adjournment.** There being no further actions for the Board, Chairman Thornton called the meeting to adjournment at 3:40 p.m.

APPROVED:

DR. WILLIAM E. THORNTON, CHAIRMAN

DATE ADOPTED: 3/10/2011

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 meeting on February 10, 2011.

ATTEST: _____

REYNALDO L. DIAZ, JR
SECRETARY/TREASURER