Item #48

## **MPO RESOLUTION 2016-16**

## Laredo Urban Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee

REQUESTING THE TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ALLOCATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO DISCRETIONARY FUNDING, TO THE LAREDO URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LAREDO DISTRICT TO COMPLETE MOBILITY PROJECTS WITHIN THE LAREDO MPO BOUNDARY

WHERAS, the Laredo Urban Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization (hereinafter referred to as the "Laredo MPO") is charged with coordinating and programming funding for on and off system road projects;

WHEREAS, the Laredo MPO has identified projects for which insufficient, if any, funding is available:

WHEREAS, Laredo plays an important role in facilitating trade between Texas and the United States and Mexico and Central and South America;

WHEREAS, the border is an economic engine that the state and nation rely on;

WHEREAS, Laredo is much smaller both in area and in population than Houston, Dallas, Austin, San Antonio or El Paso yet it represents greater international trade than any single one of them;

WHEREAS, Laredo's total trade, total exports and total imports, grew more than any other U.S. Customs District in 2014;

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that Laredo's trade numbers will continue to grow;

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo's four international bridges account for \$199,144,135,540 of the \$280 billion dollars in trade flowing through the Laredo Customs District and 66% of all commercial trucks crossing between Mexico and the U.S.;

WHEREAS, the Laredo Custom's District is 3rd in the nation surpassed only by Los Angeles and New York;

WHEREAS, an average of 14,000 commercial vehicles cross Laredo's International Bridge system daily;

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo has 22 trains traveling over 81 public at grade crossings and through its downtown daily, continually and impeding emergency, commercial and passenger traffic:

WHEREAS, the large volume of traffic passing over Laredo's International Bridges places a tremendous strain on the area's transportation infrastructure making it imperative that the infrastructure around this port remain in peak condition to ensure our economy keeps moving forward:

WHEREAS, the Laredo MPO, in conjunction with its planning partners, has developed a number of mobility projects which would resolve many of the area's transportation problems;

WHEREAS, using current anticipated funding, both state and federal, the majority of these projects will not be built for decades;

WHEREAS, given the importance of Laredo as an economic conduit for the State of Texas and the nation additional funding is warranted.

## NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAREDO MPO POLICY COMMITTEE THAT:

- Section 1: The Laredo MPO Policy Committee petitions the Texas Transportation Commission to allocate additional funds, including but not limited to discretionary funding, to the Laredo Urban Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization and to the Texas Department of Transportation Laredo District to complete mobility projects within the Laredo MPO boundary.
- Section 2: The Laredo MPO has identified the following projects which will alleviate freight mobility congestion and connectivity inefficiencies plaguing the Laredo Metropolitan area:
  - US 59/Loop 20/Future I 69W corridor from International Blvd. to US 59 Business - expansion to interstate highway standards.
  - Hachar-Reuthinger Parkway/Highway from Mines road to intersection with IH-35 (at approx. mile marker 15)
  - Additional Exit Booths at World Trade Bridge with a "Weigh-in Motion" System
  - Fast Lane at World Trade Bridge
  - Improvements to FM 1472
  - Develop/Improve Relief Route to Mines Road
    - Vallecillo Road New capacity roadway.
    - Sara Road widen existing roadway and realign southern end of Sara Rd. to relieve FM1472 (Mines Road) congestion.

- IH-35 grade separation at Beltway/Uniroyal (mile marker 13) Bridge replacement and underpass widening
- Widen IH 35 to six lanes from Shiloh to U.S. Customs and Border Protection checkpoint
- Springfield Road completion relief route for congestion on McPherson Rd.

**Section 3:** This resolution be sent to the Texas Transportation Commission; the Executive Director of the Texas Transportation Commission; the Honorable Henry Cuellar, U.S. Congressman, 28<sup>th</sup> District of Texas; the Honorable Judith Zaffirini, State Senator, 21<sup>st</sup> Senatorial District; the Honorable Richard Peña Raymond, State Representative, District 42; the Honorable Tracy O. King, State Representative, District 80.

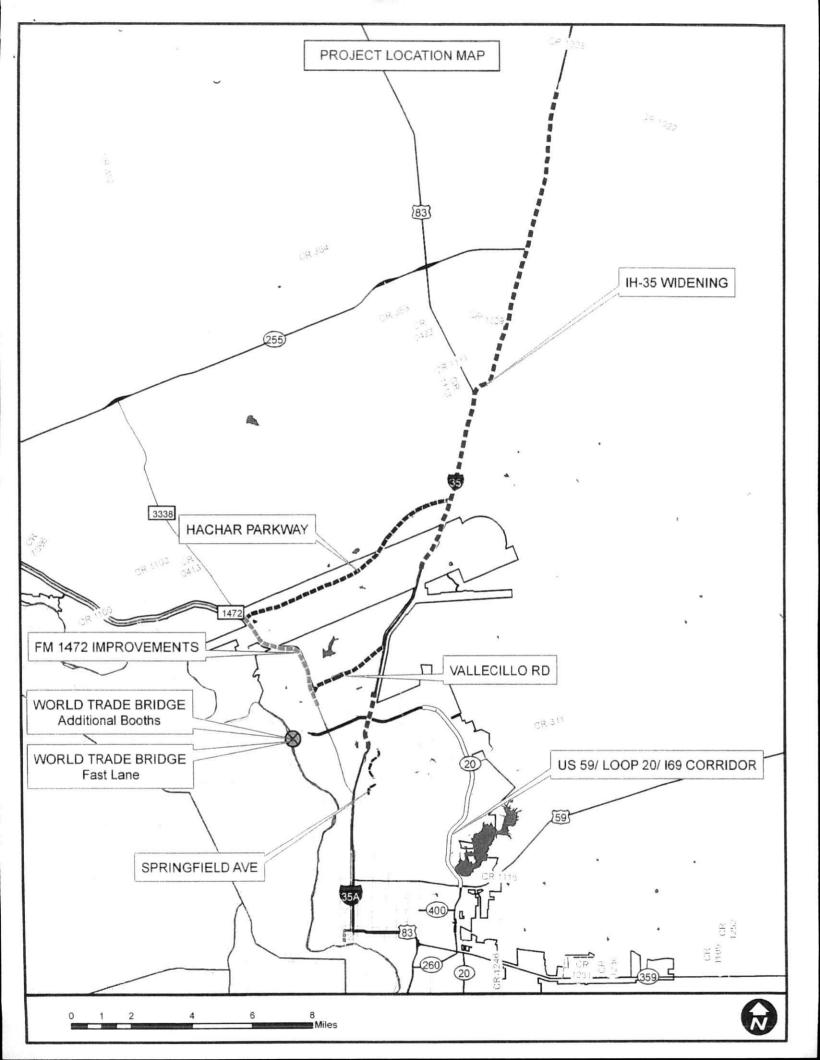
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Policy Committee Members:	Policy Committee Members:
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Honorable Pete Sagnz	Honorable Tano E. Zigerina
Mayor, City of Laredo and Chairperson	Webb County Judge and Vice- Chairperson
Honorable George Altgelt	Acy Co Honorable Jamie Ganales
Councilman District VII	Webb County Commissioner Precinct 4
Honorable Roberto Balli	Honorable John Galo
Councilman District VIII	Webb County Commissioner Precinct 3
Honorable Charlie San Miguel Councilman District VI	Melisa D. Montemayor Laredo District Administrator, TxDOT
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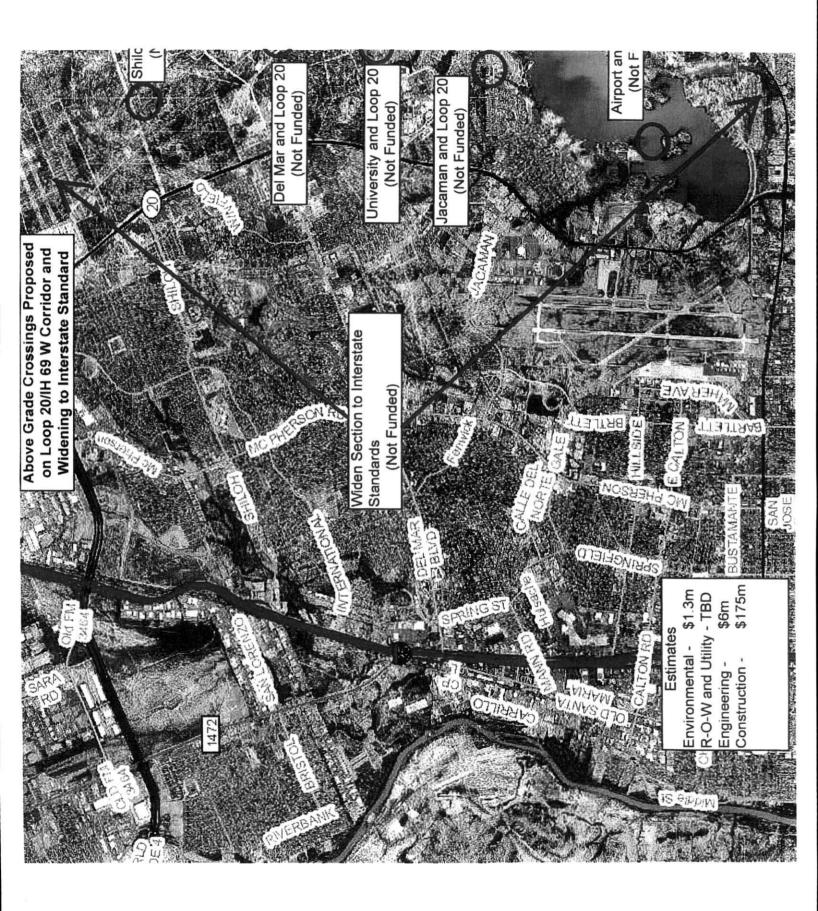
Pedro R. Alvarez, P.E.,

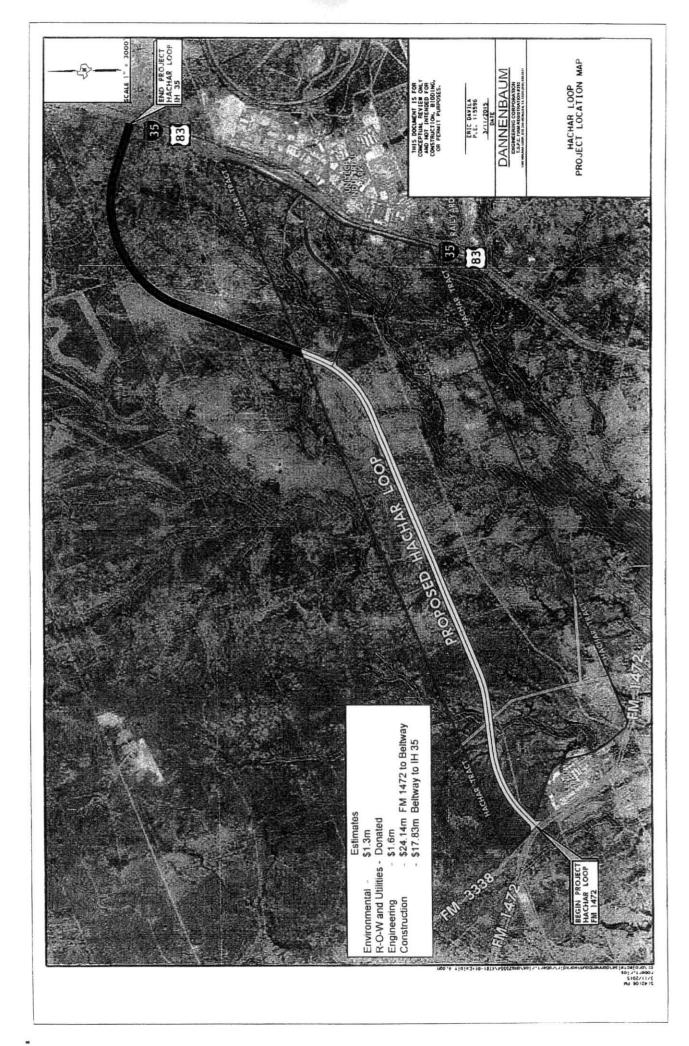
Laredo District Engineer, TxDOT

I certify that the above resolution was adopted on May 27, 2016 at a public meeting of the Policy Committee of the Laredo Urban Transportation Study MPO.

Nathan R. Bratton MPO Director

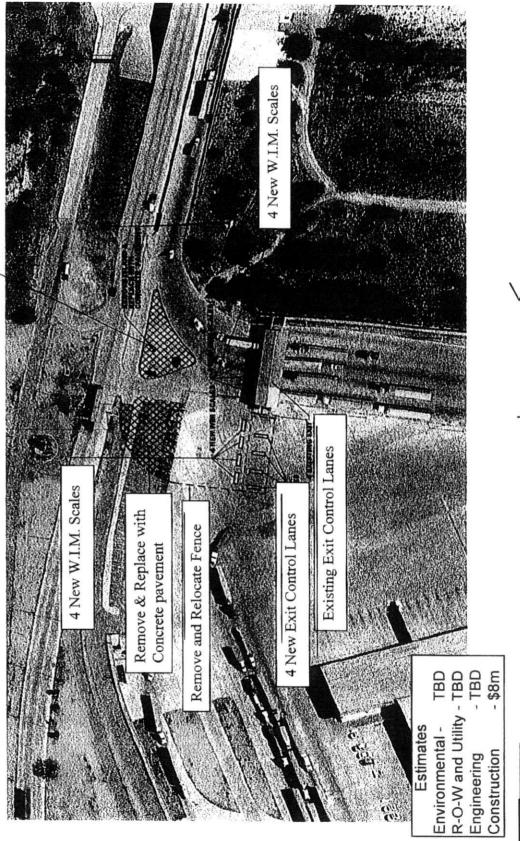






Bridge with "Weigh-in-Motion" System Additional Exit Booths at World Trade

Remove Island & Replace with Concrete Pavement





CITY OF LAREDO



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CONSULTING ENGINEERS

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