

## ALAMO REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY

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

### MINUTES

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** Chairman B. Thornton called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Members in attendance were: R. Thompson, R. Diaz, J. Reed, M.C. Rodriguez, and W. McBride. Members excused: H. Munoz.

2. **Approval of the AlamoRMA August 8, 2005 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes.**  
*No board action was taken on this item.*

3. **Discussion and appropriate action on the AlamoRMA Board Governance Policy.** In presenting this item W. McBride summarized the events leading to the development of the governance guidelines. The draft of the guidelines has been reviewed and critiqued by board members, executive director, and legal counsel. At the last meeting W. McBride presented the governance guidelines for a "first reading". No further changes have been suggested. *W. McBride made the motion for adoption of the AlamoRMA Governance Guidelines and to change the word "officers" to "administrators". R. Diaz seconded. Motion passed.*

The action taken by the board regarding the governance policy prompted Chairman Thornton to name a Finance Committee which will be responsible for finance and audit oversight. He named H. Munoz, chairman. Members also include M.C. Rodriguez and W. McBride.

4. **Discussion and appropriate action on the AlamoRMA's role in providing local input in the CDA review and selection process for the development, design, construction, finance, maintenance and operation of tolled, managed lanes on Loop 1604 from SH 151 to I-10 and on US 281 from Loop 1604 to north of Borgfeld Road.** D. Casteel, TxDOT District Engineer, began his presentation by asking board members to refer to the TxDOT letter dated, August 15, 2005, from A. Saenz, Jr., Assistant Executive Director Engineering Operations, which confirms TxDOT's commitment to work with the AlamoRMA in the CDA proposal process.

Chairman Thornton acknowledged the relationship between TxDOT and the AlamoRMA and said he would direct board members and appropriate staff to sign and comply with the confidentiality requirements in addition to working with TxDOT in the development of standards and requirements for the CDA and technical provisions.

Chairman Thornton also reminded the board the CDA proposal is now considered a “competing proposal” based on the issuance of a request for competing proposals by the Texas Transportation Commission on July 29, 2005.

Citizens signed to speak on this item and their general comments were:

Richard Bravo, resident of San Antonio and lives near the proposed US 281 construction, said he views US 281 as being turned into a street. He recommended TxDOT proceed with US 281 as it was previously funded. He also suggested removing all signal lights and constructing overpasses where traffic signals are now located.

Mike Wikman, resident of the Woods of Shavano, said he has had the opportunity to talk to numerous citizens and elected officials at meetings to discuss toll roads. He felt the elected and appointed officials have voted against the will of the people and he does not want to see toll roads built.

Brad Holt, resident of Spring Branch in Comal County, said highways need to be repaired throughout the state. He is not opposed to toll roads as long as existing roads are not used and new roads are built for toll purposes.

Terri Hall, resident of Spring Branch in Comal County and Director of the Texas Toll Party, cited reasons for being opposed to toll roads. She said the solution for US 281 is to build overpasses where traffic lights exist. She also said the Texas Toll Party is calling for an independent review of the toll road plans.

Nancy Ream, resident of San Antonio and lives north of LP 1604 and US 281, said she was more interested in answers to questions. The project for US 281 had been funded in 2001. The plans were to have overpasses completed by 2004. What happened?

Michael Maines, Sr., resident of Spring Branch in Comal County, spoke against toll roads and the definition of the term “conversion” used by TxDOT; reduced speed limits on non-toll lanes; and use of gas tax money for non-highway uses. He said the people deserve a public vote.

Dave Ramos, resident of San Antonio, asked the RMA board to look at the facts and history of toll roads. He said the 82 miles of toll roads in Houston, Texas have done little to alleviate traffic congestion. He also said TxDOT should be looking at alternative funding methods.

Citizen speakers concluded.

J. Reed, Planning Committee Chairman, said he would like to respond to some of the comments made by citizens by asking J. Brown, Assistant TxDOT District Engineer, to present a diagram of lane configurations as US 281 exists today and what is being proposed. She said the reason for the numerous signal lights are due to the heavy growth

in development and the need for motorist safety. On the diagram, J. Brown showed the non-toll lane alternatives.

J. Reed closed this agenda item by saying toll roads are just one of the options being explored. In mentioning other options, he also said he sees this as being a part of a system needing many sources of financing to achieve the objective of acceleration.

*R. Diaz made the motion to approve the AlamoRMA's participation in the CDA review and selection process consistent with the procedures set forth in the August 15, 2005 letter from Amadeo Saenz of TxDOT, and further authorizing participation in the process by appropriate AlamoRMA board, staff, and consultant team members. R. Thompson seconded. Motion passed.*

Chairman Thornton requested letters of gratitude be sent to Texas Transportation Commission Chairman Williamson and to TxDOT Assistant Executive Director Engineering Operations A. Saenz for their invitation to the AlamoRMA to participate as partners with TxDOT in the CDA review process.

**5. Discussion and appropriate action on TxDOT transferring to the AlamoRMA the development on IH 35, SH 16 and Wurzbach Parkway Interchange as potential toll projects.** T. Griebel, Executive Director, began his presentation by reminding board members this item had been discussed at the recent special board meeting (workshop). He made reference to the letter sent to the board from D. Casteel. The issues discussed included the transfer of development rights for three (3) projects.

D. Casteel elaborated on the subject by saying these projects are in various stages of development and need acceleration. The projects are identified in the RMA strategic plan. Decisions will be made in the near future and as indicated in the letter dated August 12, 2005, TxDOT has offered the AlamoRMA to take the lead role on the projects.

J. Reed said the reasons for taking on these initial projects were: 1) for stability of the organization; 2) local control; 3) identifying the role of the RMA; and 4) implementing the AlamoRMA Strategic Plan.

*J. Reed made the motion to approve the submission of a request to TxDOT to transfer development authority for the IH 35 North (Bexar/Guadalupe County Line to the Central Business District), SH 16 (IH 410 to Loop 1604), and Wurzbach Parkway Interchange (West Ave. to Jones Maltsberger) projects, and further authorizing the Executive Director to submit to TxDOT a request for toll equity funding to support the AlamoRMA's work related to each of those projects. R. Diaz seconded.*

Chairman Thornton asked J. Walsh, MPO Executive Director, to comment on the item. J. Walsh said these projects were among many projects identified as being needed. Understanding that not having enough money for all projects is the main issue, it is important for each of the transportation partners to seek out all opportunities available in the region.

*Motion passed.*

**6. Discussion and appropriate action on Bexar County Commissioners Court Resolution Addressing Citizen Concerns About Conversion of Existing State Highway Lanes to Tolls.** T. Griebel called the board's attention to the recent letter of September 2, 2005 from County Judge Nelson Wolff and the letter received from B. Cassidy, legal counsel, outlining what constitutes "conversion" when reconstructing existing lanes.

*W. McBride made the motion to approve the Board Chair's communication to the Bexar County Commissioners Court certifying the AlamoRMA's continuing commitment to not converting any non-tolled roadways to tolled roadways, and further authorizing the forwarding of the opinion of legal counsel analyzing the 281 Project under state law provisions defining conversions. R. Thompson seconded.*

Citizen speakers included:

Brad Holt made reference to the Bexar County resolution creating the Regional Mobility Authority and the Resolution Addressing Citizen Concerns About Conversion of Existing State Highway Lanes to Tolls, dated August 30, 2005. He expressed concern with the definition provided in HB 2702.

Nancy Ream expressed concern about the definition of conversion. She also said she was having problems understanding the term "capacity". N. Ream is recommending that the public have an opportunity to vote on toll roads. She concluded by saying she felt more comfortable with toll roads now that she understands not all of US 281 will be tolled.

Michael Maines, Sr. said no one is listening to the people and said the only options available are "TxDOT options".

Citizen speakers concluded.

B. Cassidy provided clarification on how he used the term "capacity" interchangeably.

*Motion passed.*

**7. Discussion and appropriate action on the financial statements for the period ending August 31, 2005.** J. Lopez, Comptroller, presented the financial statements for the period ending August 31, 2005. She reviewed the Balance Sheet; the Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Deficit; and the Statement of Cash Flow. *R. Thompson made the motion to accept the financial statements for the period ending August 31, 2005, as presented. W. McBride seconded. Motion passed.*

**8. Discussion and appropriate action the FY 2006 Operating Budget.** T. Griebel said the fiscal year ends on September 30, 2005. He has met with the Executive Committee to

review the work plan for the next fiscal year, by quarter, and by priority. He explained the budget by line items. W. McBride commented on the executive committee meeting and the work plan.

*W. McBride made the motion to adopt the AlamoRMA budget and work plan for FY 2006. R. Thompson seconded. Motion passed.*

**9. Discussion and appropriate action issuing a position announcement for an executive director.** Chairman Thornton advised board members that he has received a letter from T. Griebel resigning as the Executive Director effective December 31, 2005. He complimented and thanked T. Griebel for his service in getting the AlamoRMA off to a good start. Chairman Thornton elaborated on T. Griebel's work accomplishments, his job knowledge, and professional demeanor. He said the board is very pleased and again thanked him for a job well-done.

In response, T. Griebel said his tenure has been challenging, exciting and a great opportunity for him. He leaves to join and spend more time with his family.

Chairman Thornton called the board's attention to the announcement for the position of Executive Director and the time table for hiring.

J. Reed suggested changes in the duties (include the word "hire") and under minimum requirements (omit the requirements of degree in Public Administration, Business Administration, etc.) and only list having a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university. There were no objections to the suggestions. Chairman Thornton named J. Reed, W. McBride, and H. Munoz to the Executive Director Review Committee.  
*W. McBride made the motion to authorize the posting of the position of Executive Director for the AlamoRMA and to incorporate the changes suggested by J. Reed. R. Thompson seconded. Motion passed.*

**10. Citizens' Communications.**

**11. Presentation/briefing – Executive Director Report.** T. Griebel discussed the external audit. He said requests for bids have been sent to seven (7) firms. Chairman Thornton asked staff to work through the Finance Committee.

W. McBride said it would be appropriate to thank County Clerk Gerry Rickhoff for permitting Alfred Rodriguez to provide staff assistance in preparation of the monthly board meeting minutes.

Chairman Thornton asked T. Griebel to communicate the board's appreciation in writing to the office of the Bexar County Clerk.

**12. Executive Session.**

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**The AlamoRMA did not meet in Executive Session**

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There being no further business to come before the board, Chairman Thornton adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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**BILL THORNTON, CHAIRMAN**  
**ALAMO REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY**

**DATE ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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 September 14, 2005.**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**M. CRISTINA RODRIGUEZ**  
**SECRETARY/TREASURER**