

Alamo Regional Mobility Authority

*Meeting October 8, 2009, 1:00p.m.,
in the Al J. Notzon III Conference Room
of the Alamo Area Council Of Governments,
at 8700 Tesoro Drive.*

Minutes

1. **Call meeting to order.** Chairman Thornton called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. All Board members present with the exception of M.C. Rodriguez.
2. **Swearing in of new Board member Robert G. Rodriguez to the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors for a term to expire on February 3, 2010.** Mr. Robert G. Rodriguez was introduced by Chairman Thornton and sworn in by Judge Margaret Montemayor. R. Rodriguez thanked the Board and introduced his family.
3. **Approval of the minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting of September 3, 2009.** *R. Diaz made the motion to approve the minutes as presented to the Board. R. Thompson seconded. Motion carried by a 6-0 vote.*
4. **Discussion and appropriate action on a resolution approving an advanced funding agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with the Texas Department of Transportation for the US 281 Super Street Project.** Terry Brechtel made a presentation (see powerpoint attached). The advance funding agreement (AFA) is with TxDOT and the MOU is with TxDOT and the City of San Antonio. T. Brechtel addressed the source of funds, stated that the Categorical Exclusion had been approved by FHWA on September 25th and the 139L notice had been published on October 7, 2009 and would last 180 days. T. Brechtel also discussed the project schedule, the description of the Super Street characteristics and agreements. *J. Reed made the motion to accept Resolution 09-31 as presented to the Board. R. Diaz seconded.* J. Reed stated that this was discussed in the Planning Committee and the proposed improvements are like the ones on Austin Highway. Citizen, Bob Sartor, Hollywood Park resident and councilmember and President of their Chapter 39 Commission stated that the timeline on this project should be slowed down and the contracts not executed until after the proposed MPO amendment but not delay the project itself. Mr. Sartor also stated that he likes that the idea is from the bottom up in lieu of the toll option and that environmental clearance for any project approved by the MPO that differs from the Super Street could be done rapidly in 30-90 days. T. Brechtel then asked legal counsel, Lisa Adelman, to address the timing requirements to obtain the Categorical Exclusion for the Super Street project. L. Adelman stated that it took approximately 6 months to obtain the clearance and it included informal consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Chairman Thornton asked if Julie Brown with TxDOT had any comments on the project. J. Brown stated they there had been extensive negotiations on implementing and monitoring with reasonable conclusions. R. Thompson asked questions on how to judge the outcomes and performances and it seemed to be a difficult task. J. Brown stated that the proposed performance measures were described well by T. Brechtel in the presentation and that TxDOT wants the majority of the benefits described by Pape Dawson to be achieved. The travel time and speed is the most important and the RMA did research to validate the models as did TxDOT and Pape Dawson did an excellent job. J. Brown also stated that these are short-term improvements not long term but she was confident it will work. R. Thompson asked what happens if the improvements do not meet the goals and J. Brown stated that there is tweaking that can be done and they understand that the models are based on assumptions and things can change travel behavior such as auxiliary construction and they will take volume counts to add into the analysis to substantiate the benefits. R. Thompson stated they there are built up expectations and this analysis will help and although the performance measures

were brought in at the end of the process there is something to review and he questioned if the traffic backs up and it stacks back to back whether it will look like pulsing and it may reduce the effect but J. Brown stated that they looked at Pape Dawson, RTG and TTI's reviews and three aspects, and with the lights at signalized intersections it will act as a system and along with lane signage/designation and routing, all will help the efficiencies and can be adjusted post-construction. J. Brown stated that TxDOT will maintain the road and the City will adjust the signals and there is one last signal on Marshall Road that is beyond the city limits and they are finalizing negotiations since this is outside of the standard agreement between the City and TxDOT. C. Villareal stated that this proposal is only temporary and there are more permanent improvements being proposed and this project is in a developed area but the photos shown for North Carolina may look like it has only been done in rural areas.

Motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

5. Discussion and appropriate action on a resolution authorizing an interlocal agreement with Bexar County for the Loop 1604 Super Street Project.

T. Brechtel made a presentation and stated that several elected officials at the local level are interested in exploring the concept on Loop 1604, including Councilman Lopez, Commissioners Rodriguez and Elizondo, from Braun to SH 151. Pape Dawson will do the feasibility study to determine that there is a benefit to moving forward. T. Brechtel stated that the County asked the RMA to lead the action to determine if the project is feasible and to manage the environmental review process. The discussions have been very preliminary and the funds from the County in the amount of \$150,000 will be used to explore if the concept could work and discuss in the future how to pay for the design and construction and we are currently in discussions with TxDOT on this part. This concept has been discussed by the Planning Committee. *J. Reed the motion to accept resolution 09-32 as presented. R. Diaz seconded.* Citizen, Bob Sartor, Hollywood Park resident, stated that he believes that the RMA is being premature in passing this resolution as the MPO hasn't even met yet and has amendments on its TIP for approval in October that may affect this item. He further stated that Bexar County should handle the project but he would oppose that too since we treat 1604 very differently from 281 and requests that the decision be postponed. Citizen, Don Dixon, San Antonio resident, stated that you must watch every dollar or you run out of dollars and he is concerned with the RMA handling it and that to save money either TxDOT or the County should do this project so there is no duplication of duty. J. Reed stated that it doesn't matter what the MPO does since any added capacity project has to go through the EIS process, it is a question of whether you do anything in the interim and although this proposal has more issues than the 281 project, there is more potential for latent demand and diverted traffic, even if the RMA only handles the first part of the project and TxDOT handles the design and construction. Steve Bonnette with Pape Dawson stated that their firm is just starting to look at it and it is complicated at SH 151 so they will have to analyze other alternatives. R. Thompson stated that at Braun and south there is a definite need for improvements and the County has never done a categorical exclusion on these roads and TxDOT has done some and since someone has to do it, since you need a categorical exclusion to get anything done, the RMA has done the 281 Super Street categorical exclusion and working on the EIS, it is a logical choice and we won't know the benefits or how it works and there will be clear lines of demarcation with the feasibility study and the categorical exclusion and then the RMA can let third parties do the construction and bidding. R. Diaz stated that although it is a temporary solution to 1604, the funding is the problem. Chairman Thornton states that the County is providing the money, they

have asked the RMA to manage this part, the RMA facilitates projects in order to reduce congestion, like in the 281 Super Street project, and it is significant work. C. Villareal stated that she wondered why the County was not doing it, and it would save money for them to do it and since it is only a temporary solution and before we spend the money we should see how 281 works, there is nothing in the MPO plan or the RMA budget and this seems to be coming up fast and it should be postponed. C. Villareal also asked who at the County is asking for this to be done, we need to find out, nobody from the County was in attendance at the meeting to request this, and it should be postponed. R. Diaz stated that Commissioner Elizondo asked us to do this, we are the only agency to do something like it and if the County handled it, then it would be duplication since we have done it, they haven't and we have the expertise. R. Rodriguez asked for a clarification that Pape Dawson put together a traffic study on it and T. Brechtel stated that was true, they have an already funded high level study and the County wants to make sure the proposed improvements just move the traffic to SH 151 and Commissioner Rodriguez asked the study to include SH 151 which is under consideration, there are high traffic counts and a tight budget to do it. The Pape Dawson initial study, which was not attached to the Agreement, used easily available information for a broad brush view and was funded by a private group. The study was funded by a private group and so the report, not owned by the County or the RMA, was not released, but the staff will ask if it can be released. R. Rodriguez asked for more information from the initial study but Steve Bonnette stated that he did not have the report with him and was unable to provide more details. It was noted that the next phase for review needs more data and design attributes and counts for the detailed study. J. Reed stated that the Planning Committee reviewed and discussed the initial report with Pape Dawson in detail, it indicates there is a lot of traffic, and we need to be careful in adding capacity with linkages that are greater than on 281 and the design will require more creativity, the elementary design states the problems and requires more study, that the corridor is growing more rapidly than 281. T. Brechtel clarified that this approval authorizes an interlocal agreement to engage Pape Dawson to study further. R. Rodriguez stated that he was at a meeting where it was discussed that this area is a problem. T. Brechtel stated the RMA will use PCI, a subconsultant to the GEC, to prepare the environmental document. Chairman Thornton stated that we want to see a feasibility study to see the solutions, we know there's a problem out there, and we have been requested by the Commissioners Court to do this. C. Villareal asked that if it is so important to the elected officials, they why weren't they there and especially if the County is responsible for cost overruns. Chairman Thornton stated that they have never asked them to attend, this Board attends Commissioners Court meetings when requested, board members have met with them on this topic and each member consults with the Commissioner who appoints them. R. Thompson stated that the request is sufficient and personal attendance is not required, we could wait another month and it won't matter but the RMA has an obligation to move this forward, the Commissioners Court voted to approve the funds and that is the evidence of their support, he asked her to join him at the public meetings which he has attended and she can get the public feedback and know that there is a need for the study. Chairman Thornton stated that we can ask the Commissioners Court on behalf of Ms. Villareal to send a representative to show their support.

Motion passed by a 4-1-1 vote. R. Rodriguez abstained. C. Villarreal voted no on the issue.

- 6. Discussion and appropriate action on the financial statements for the period ending August 31, 2009.** Chairman Thornton asked Ms. Brechtel to introduce Item 8 for Board consideration. Ms.

Brechtel introduced Carrie Conner, Comptroller, of the Alamo RMA who presented the financial statements for period ending August 31, 2009. Ms. Conner reviewed the balance sheet and highlights. Ms. Conner then reviewed the statement of capitalized costs and income statement. She stated that due to the timing of the Board meeting the September month end reports were not available and would be provided at the November Board meeting. R. Rodriguez asked about the expenses relating to Moody's and the prior TIFIA application and there was a discussion of the prior financing process for the 281 North toll project which was never completed. Ms. Conner then reviewed the statement of cash flows and asked for questions.

R. Rodriguez made the motion to accept the Financial Statements as presented to the Board. R. Thompson seconded. Motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

7. Presentation/briefing - Executive Director Report.

T. Brechtel reviewed the quarterly calendar of upcoming events for the Board and reviewed the GEC report. T. Brechtel also went over the MPO meetings and schedule and the monthly updates for the Alamo RMA projects. T. Brechtel asked the Board to consider merging the November and December Board meetings as has been customary in the past. R. Thompson asked about the Interchange schedule and T. Brechtel stated that we have a workshop and one-on-one meetings coming up and we will be issuing an addendum and the karst surveys are underway and we anticipate the final environmental document being available late December or early January and selection of the design/build team in March and still in line and on schedule to meet the obligation of ARRA funds deadline of March 1, 2010.

8. Citizens to be heard. There were no citizens signed up to speak on this item.

9. Executive Session. There was no Executive Session.

10. Adjournment. There being no further actions for the Board, Chairman Thornton called the meeting to adjournment at 2:30 p.m.

APPROVED:

DR. WILLIAM E. THORNTON, CHAIRMAN

DATE ADOPTED: 11/10/2009

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 October 8, 2009.

ATTEST: _____

**REYNALDO L. DIAZ, JR
SECRETARY/TREASURER**