

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAMERON County

MINUTE ORDER

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District **PHARR**

Pursuant to Chapter 370 of the Transportation Code, and 43 TAC Chapter 26 (RMA rules), Cameron County (county) petitioned the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) for authorization to form a Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) in Cameron County. The petition was filed on June 15, 2004.

By letter dated July 30, 2004, the Texas Department of Transportation (department) notified the county that the petition met the requirements of §26.11 of the RMA rules.

The petition identifies an approximate 7.25-mile toll road network as the potential candidate project for development by the RMA. The project would follow the current right of way of the Union Pacific Railroad beginning at US 77/83 and extend south to Palm Boulevard in the city of Brownsville. The project will provide an important north-south corridor and a reliever route for some of the noncommercial traffic, and will provide for improved access to the Brownsville central business district.

The board of directors of the RMA, as set forth in the petition, will be composed of seven members, with six (6) directors appointed by the Cameron County Commissioners Court, and one director, who will serve as chairperson, appointed by the Governor.

On August 31, 2004, the department conducted a public hearing in Cameron County, pursuant to §26.12 of the RMA rules, to receive public comment on the proposed formation of the RMA. Notice of the public hearing was published in the *Texas Register* and in a newspaper of general circulation in Cameron County.

At the public hearing, several individuals spoke in favor of the creation of the RMA. Four individuals submitted written comments, three in favor of and one opposing the development of toll roads.

The commission finds that the creation of the RMA has sufficient public support. The commission bases this finding on: (1) the support indicated at the public hearing; and (2) resolutions of support from the Commissioners Court of Cameron County, the Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Harlingen/San Benito Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The commission finds that creation of the RMA will result in direct benefits to the state, local governments, and the traveling public, and will improve the efficiency of the state's transportation systems. The RMA will benefit the state by constructing needed roadway projects, such as the network identified in the county's petition, as the county's potential candidate project. The RMA will benefit local governments by increasing local control over transportation planning and through additional transportation projects that may be funded through surplus revenue earned by the RMA. The traveling public will also benefit through improved mobility and traffic safety throughout the region encompassed by the RMA. The RMA will improve the efficiency of the state's transportation systems through the construction of the potential candidate project, which will enhance mobility and safety within these segments of the state highway system and through the development and financing of additional projects in the future.

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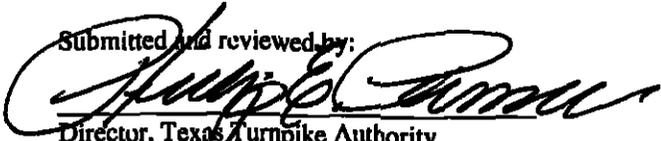
District PHARR

The commission finds that the potential candidate project is: consistent with the approved Texas Transportation Plan; included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program; and included in the approved plan of the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Subject to commission approval of the project under §26.31 of the RMA rules, the commission also finds that the project will benefit the traveling public.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the commission authorizes the creation of the RMA.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the potential candidate project to be developed, maintained, and operated by the RMA shall be the network identified above. This order does not constitute final commission approval of the project, which must be obtained pursuant to Chapter 370 of the Transportation Code and the applicable provisions of the RMA rules.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the initial board of directors shall be composed of seven members, with six members appointed by the Cameron County Commissioners Court, and the presiding officer appointed by the Governor.

Submitted and reviewed by:

Director, Texas Turnpike Authority
Division

Recommended by:

Executive Director

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Minute Number Date Passed