8:30–9 a.m.  COFFEE AND NETWORKING

9–9:10 a.m.  WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Rolando B. Pablos  
Texas Secretary of State and Chair  
Border Trade Advisory Committee

Laura Ryan  
Commissioner  
Texas Transportation Commission

Alvin New  
Commissioner  
Texas Transportation Commission

9:10–9:15 a.m.  ADOPTION OF APRIL 18, 2018, MEETING MINUTES

Committee adopts minutes from last meeting

Rolando B. Pablos, Texas Secretary of State and Chair, Border Trade Advisory Committee

9:15–9:45 a.m.  LEGISLATIVE PERSPECTIVE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TEXAS-MEXICO BORDER REGION AND HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ON TX HOUSE DISTRICT 74

Discussion on Importance of Infrastructure Development on Texas House District 74

The Honorable Alfonso Nevarez, Texas House of Representatives, District 74

9:45–10:15 a.m.  CYBER SAFETY, IT INFRASTRUCTURE AND EFFICIENCY

Discuss communications, IT infrastructure and cyber security and efficiency

Benji Hutchinson, Vice President of Federal Operations, NEC Corporation of America

10:15–11:15 a.m.  TEXAS-MEXICO BORDER STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION BLUEPRINT

Subcommittee Chairs to Report on Recommendations:

1. Establish a Texas-Mexico Trade Transportation Task Force
2. Develop a Texas-Mexico Trade Lanes Program
3. Develop a Public Awareness and Education Program
4. Implement Technology and Innovative Binational Border Strategies
5. Foster Private-Sector Involvement

Timoteo “Tim” Juarez Jr., Texas Department of Transportation

Gerry Schwebel  
Executive Vice President  
International Bank of Commerce

English Ramsey Cantu  
Mayor  
City of Eagle Pass
11:15 a.m.–Noon  TEXAS-MEXICO BORDER TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN

Discuss the Texas-Mexico Border Transportation Master Plan Update
- Rolando B. Pablos, Texas Secretary of State and Chair, Border Trade Advisory Committee
- Timoteo “Tim” Juarez Jr., Texas Department of Transportation
- Brian Swindell, P.E.
  Deputy Project Manager, HDR

Noon–12:30 p.m.  LAREDO REGION TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Discussion of Infrastructure and Economic Development Updates in the Laredo Region
- The Honorable Tano Tijerina, County Judge, Webb County
- The Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor, City of Laredo
- David Salazar, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation, Laredo District Engineer

12:30–12:45 p.m.  OPEN DISCUSSION — FUTURE MEETINGS AND TOPICS

Discuss any outstanding issues and summary of action items and future meetings and topics
- Rolando B. Pablos, Texas Secretary of State and Chair, Border Trade Advisory Committee

12:45 p.m.  ADJOURN

- Rolando B. Pablos, Texas Secretary of State and Chair, Border Trade Advisory Committee

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

September 12, 2018, Location TBD
December 12, 2018, Location TBD
Rolando Pablos
Texas Secretary of State and Chair, Border Trade Advisory Committee

Governor Greg Abbott appointed Rolando B. Pablos as the 111th Texas Secretary of State on January 5, 2017. Secretary Pablos brings an extensive record of public service to the Office of the Secretary of State, including tenure as a commissioner on the Texas Racing Commission and the Public Utility Commission of Texas. Secretary Pablos understands the importance of leveraging strategic community capacity in order to foster economic growth and attract investment to Texas. As both a state official and in his private practice, he has played critical roles in the advancement of international trade with Texas, especially through his advocacy for cross-border collaboration between the US and Mexico.

Laura Ryan
Commissioner, Texas Transportation Commission

Laura Ryan is a member of the Texas Transportation Commission, which oversees statewide activities of the Texas Department of Transportation.

Ryan is CEO of Purdy Motors USA. Purdy Motors is Costa Rica’s exclusive Toyota distributor, with growing operations in the U.S. In her role, Commissioner Ryan is responsible for strategically expanding and diversifying Purdy’s U.S. business operations, which currently consists of three Texas-based Toyota dealerships. She recently served as vice president of market representation and dealer development for Gulf States Toyota Inc., a private distributor for Toyota Motor Sales based in Houston. Before that Ryan was vice president of sales and marketing with an affiliated Freidkin Company, GSFSGroup Inc., and chair of the Board of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV), where she represented the vehicle manufacturing and distribution industry. In her more than 25 years in the automotive industry, she also held positions with retail dealerships, Nissan Motor Sales (in both variable and fixed operations) and worked as an independent automotive consultant.

During her tenure at TxDMV, Ryan initiated many processes to make the department more innovative, customer-oriented and efficient, and held the positions of chair of the Projects and Operations Committee and vice chair before becoming chair at TxDMV. She has also presented as a guest speaker for National Automobile Dealers Association convention workshops and Texas A&M University’s Mays Business School.

Ryan is involved with her community through several volunteer and charity organizations, including Boys and Girls Country of Houston, Operation Interdependence and the National Charity League.

She attended Penn State University and has been engaged in executive education programs including Gallup Organization Strengths Training, University of Texas Future Leaders and the Columbia University Finance Program.
Alvin New
Commissioner, Texas Transportation Commission

Alvin New is a member of the Texas Transportation Commission, which oversees statewide activities of the Texas Department of Transportation. New is a business investor, rancher and former San Angelo Mayor.

New is a life-long resident of West Texas and was born in Brownfield. He has lived mostly in or near San Angelo since 1981.

New spent most of his career with Town & Country Food Stores. He started as a clerk while getting his business administration degree from Angelo State University. New worked his way up to chief executive officer and part owner. He and his partners sold their stake in the convenience store chain about a decade ago. He currently serves as a member of the Texas Tech University Foundation Board and the Goodfellow Air Force Base Advisory Council. New earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration in management from Angelo State University. Commissioner New was appointed Feb. 20, 2018, and his term will expire Feb. 1, 2021.

Alfonso Nevárez
Texas House of Representatives, District 74

Alfonso “Poncho” Nevárez has a successful law practice in Eagle Pass of ten employees, specializing in personal injury litigation. He graduated from UT Austin with a Bachelor of Arts in Government in 1994 and in 1999 he received his law degree from St. Mary’s School of Law.

He has over 15 years of trial experience in personal injury and commercial litigation, and devotes a great deal of time providing free legal services to the needy and elderly. He has always been active in his local community, serving from 2005-2009 on the Maverick County Tax Appraisal District and as a Trustee on the Eagle Pass I.S.D. School Board.

Poncho is currently serving his third term as the State Representative for House District 74, including the counties of Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Kinney, Loving, Maverick, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Terrell, and Val Verde. His top priorities in the legislature are supporting children through funding public education, advocating for border issues and infrastructure, and fighting to represent the rights of the underserved. In 2013, he was humbled to be named Freshman of the Year by his colleagues in the House Democratic Caucus and was honored again in 2015 when he was elected Vice-Chair of the Caucus.

Poncho and his wife, Rossy Guadarrama de Nevárez, are the proud parents of three children, Renata, Rominna, and Alfonso Hernan (Ponchito). The family attends Our Lady of Refuge Church in Eagle Pass.
Benji Hutchinson
Vice President of Federal Operations, NEC Corporation of America

Benji Hutchinson is the Vice President of Federal Operations in the Washington D.C. office of the NEC Corporation of America’s Advanced Recognition Systems Division. He has 14 years of direct experience in the biometrics and identity technology industries supporting US national security and homeland defense agencies across the Department of Defense, Department of Justice, Department of State, Intelligence Community, and Department of Homeland Security. His current focus is building NEC’s U.S. federal identity solutions business in Washington, D.C. Mr. Hutchinson is also an adjunct professor of policy for identity analysis in the graduate program of the Forensics Department at George Mason University.

Mr. Hutchinson holds a BA in International Economics and French, an MA in French Language and Literature, and an MA in International Affairs from the University of Kentucky.

Tano Tijerina
County Judge, Webb County

Born and raised in Laredo, Texas, Webb County Judge Tano Tijerina originates from a family of civil servants who was taught at an early age the meaning of hard work, commitment, dedication, respect and community service.

Judge Tijerina graduated from J.W. Nixon High School in 1992 and continued his studies at Navarro Junior College in Corsicana Texas. In 1993 he was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 8th round and played four years of minor league baseball. After several successful seasons with the Milwaukee Brewers he retired from baseball returned to Laredo and continued his education at Texas A & M International University and graduated in 2002 with a degree in fitness and sports and a minor in criminal justice.

Sworn into Office on January 1, 2015, Judge Tijerina is the 23rd Judge for Webb County. Judge Tijerina has been married to Kimberly Walker for 23 years and they have four children, Bonnie Jean, Cayetano Isaac, Christopher Alfonso and Keith Alexander.
Pete Saenz
Mayor, City of Laredo

Pete Saenz “New Voice; New Vision” agenda is focused on bringing trust and transparency to city government and bringing new industry and jobs to Laredo.

Saenz was elected for 12 years to the Laredo Community College board and served four years as president. He was instrumental in the planning and construction of the LCC South Campus.

Saenz is a third-generation son of Laredo. He graduated from St. Joseph’s Academy and earned a Bachelor and Master’s degrees in Animal Science and Range Management from Texas A&I University. He also earned a law degree from St. Mary’s University School of Law.

Saenz has built a highly successful and distinguished law practice. He also worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a Range Conservationist.

Saenz has always been a devoted servant of the community. He has served on numerous community boards and advisory committees, including president of the South Texas Food Bank and president of the Laredo Affordable Housing Corporation.

David Salazar, P.E.
Texas Department of Transportation, Laredo District Engineer

David M. Salazar, Jr., P.E. serves as District Engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation Laredo District. David oversees the planning, designing, building, operation and maintenance of the state transportation system for the eight-county Laredo District.

During his tenure with the Texas Department of Transportation, he began as an engineering assistant at the Del Rio Area Office in 1995, then eventually served as district materials engineer for the San Angelo District in 2004 until his selection as Carrizo Springs Area Engineer, a position he held from 2006 until 2011 where he oversaw design, construction and maintenance in Dimmit, La Salle and Zavala counties.

David was appointed Laredo District Director of Maintenance in September 2011 until 2017, where he was responsible for overseeing the district’s maintenance program. His leadership was instrumental during the district’s pavement preservation and reconstruction period of the Eagle Ford Shale boom years which caused considerable challenges to the state’s transportation system. During his entire TxDOT career, David has actively supported the department’s Emergency Operations Center by leading the district’s hurricane and storm relief efforts.