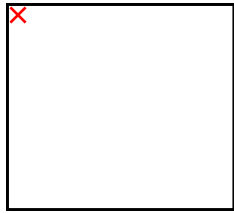


SPECIAL MEETING - March 31, 2016

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 31st day of March A.D., 2016, there was begun and held a SPECIAL MEETING of the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Hidalgo County, Texas, wherein the following members thereof were present, to-wit:

HONORABLE RAMON GARCIA	HIDALGO COUNTY JUDGE
HONORABLE A.C. CUELLAR, JR.	COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 1
HONORABLE EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU	COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 2
HONORABLE JOE M. FLORES	COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 3
HONORABLE JOSEPH PALACIOS	COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 4

and ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR., COUNTY CLERK & EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT of Hidalgo County, Texas, wherein the following proceedings were had, to-wit:



**AGENDA
CC REGULAR
HIDALGO COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COURT
MEETING
March 31, 2016
9:30 A.M.**

NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, that a SPECIAL MEETING of the Commissioners' Court will be held at the Edinburg Council Chambers 415 W. University Drive, Edinburg, Hidalgo County, Texas. Discussion and possible action relating to the following business will be transacted:

1. **Roll Call**

All members of the court were in attendance.

Representing Legal Counsel today Mr. Rex N. Leech.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Judge Ramon Garcia led the courtroom in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Prayer**

Mrs. Julia Sullivan led the courtroom in Prayer.

4. **Open Forum**

Mr. Valde Guerra informed the court that for purposes this meeting, no open forum is to presented.

5. **Precinct #4 - Comm. Palacios:**

- A. AI-53911 Resolution of support for submittal of letter to Hidalgo County MPO regarding Proposition #1 and Proposition #7 funding

Commissioner Joseph Palacios informed the court that he was approached by TXDOT and MPO for funding request on the Proposition #1 and Proposition #7.

The commissioner explained that all other commissioners were able to identify essential projects for each precinct. In precinct 1 they'll be working on mile 10 and FM 493 as well as mile 6.

In support of these future projects, Commissioner Palacios requested to sign a Resolution to demonstrate full approval.

On motion by COMMISSIONER PCT. 3, JOE M. FLORES, seconded by COMMISSIONER PCT. 1, A.C. CUELLAR, JR., the Court made a UNANIMOUS vote of approval.

Vote: 5 - 0 - Unanimously

Court proceeded to Item.6.A.2. Geo-technical and Construction Materials Testing Firms.

6. **Purchasing Department:**

A. AI-53912 Discussion, consideration and action on the following:

Hidalgo County Commissioners Court to hear [through presentations with Q&A] from nominated Architects, Geo-technical & Construction Materials Testing Engineering Firms in connection with the design & construction of a New Hidalgo County Courthouse for the purpose of grading/evaluating and finalizing scoring sheets with each professional firm limited to a maximum of 10 minutes for their presentations to identify either specific courthouse or other significant projects with emphasis on the composition of project team identifying firm's personnel and local participation:

1. Architect Firms:

- A. HDR, Architecture, Inc.
- B. HOK - Hellmuth, Obata, Kassabaum, L.P.

Judge Garcia introduced Hon. John R. Hawkins, representing Porter Hedges LLP and on behalf of Hon. David D. Peden.

Judge Garcia informed that the Firm of Porter Hedges has recommended making a determination as to what method of delivery they'll be proceeding with. According to the judge, the firm has recommended to proceed with the method of delivery construction manager at risk. In fact both architects submitted the same request. Out of that specific necessity, it is required to get involved in selecting a contractor at this early stage. The contractor would participate with the architects in the preparation of the early documents, avoiding any issues before the documents are finalized.

Mr. Hawkins informed the court about their three practice groups, including the litigation group and the construction section. Under the construction section they have 10 lawyers, including Mr. Peden. He informed the court that he practice architecture for 10 years and 20 years of construction law.

Mr. Hawkins brief the court on the traditional delivery project method, were there's an owner and an architect and a contractor, completing a triangle. On the other side of the scale, there's design build, were one company provides both the design and the construction. The construction manager at risk sits in the middle or they could have construction management not at risk, were the contractor is hire for feedback and advice to the architect on how to develop the design in an economic way. On the other hand, when it is at risk, the contractor comes in and aids the architect on how to find the best ways to design the project. This is at risk because typically they would have the contract with construction manager at risk, would be a costless contract and actual cost, plus percentage for overhead and percentage for the fee. The proposal is cost plus, but guarantees maximum cost price and if it goes over the maximum price it would come out of the contractor pocket and not the client.

Occasionally the way this works, before getting to the actual documents this is the point in time were many specific technical parts of the building become together.

Ms. Salazar informed the court that in order to select the construction manager at risk, there's statutory method much like it is being done today. The construction manager at risk needs to meet all the qualifications, it is not a just a general contractor who has done conventional construction. This would be someone who is going to present all credentials and experience for this type of construction. Ms. Salazar commented to the court that during this process Mr. Peden or Mr. Hawkins will be very critical in the development of those packets and the credentials needed.

Commissioner Cantu selected HOK to be the first presenter.

Mr. Valde Guerra reminded the presenters of the 10:00 minute time frame.

Mr. Jeff Bradley presented on behalf of HOK and assured the court members of their background experience on high rise construction. He informed the court about the over 100 courthouse projects that include from 1 to 72 courtrooms each , over 2,500 courtroom designs, 123 AIA Academy of Justice Design Excellence Awards, \$3 billion plus justice projects designed the last five years.

The HOK team is composed by project leadership that includes Mr. Court Parde and Mr. Jeff Bradley, both project managers. Mr. Bradley emphasized that there're no other leadership team in the State of Texas that has led more state projects, between him and Mr. Parde they accumulate over 50 years of experience in the industry.

The team is also frame by Mrs. Linda Bernauer 19 years with HOK, Mr. Steve Brookoevr 16 years with HOK, Mr. Tommy Sinclair 10 years with

HOK, Mr. Bob Schwartz 34 years with HOK. Mr. Bradley notify the court about the extensive background experience by Mr. Schwartz stating that he has been contributed author of the National Center of State Courts the Courthouse Planning and Designing Guide. Also in addition, he has contributed on the Court Technology Guidelines that have been done for the courthouse in the United States. The American Institute of Architects has a group of specialist that developed technology guidelines for audio, video, telecom, security and electronics which Mr. Schwartz has been part of. The United States Courthouse Advisory Committee also worked on a program analysis and came out with a design guideline.

In addition to that, the American Institute of Architects has retrospects. Every 10 years they published the best courthouses and justice projects in the country. Out of the ones that have been done the last 3 decades from 1980 to 2010, HOK has received 123 awards for courthouse projects. According to Mr. Bradley there's no other firm that has these recognition, owning almost 25% of all recognition of courthouse awards in the United States.

Structural Engineer Mr. Anu Mahendra spoke about his 45 years of experience in designing buildings. The engineer informed the court about his designing plan for the structure of the Chase Building, which is the tallest tower in McAllen, Texas since 1978. Additionally, he recognized the concerns over the height of the building but expressed that all the building they construct specially in the Houston area, the foundations go below the water table. The BG Place in Houston, Texas was designed by Mr. Mahendra in 2010. The water table in the construction was 10 feet above the foundation, to address this issue they redesigned the retention system to keep out the water and then build three levels of garage below ground. Mr. Mahendra stated that he is the director of structural engineering and will be the one directing the design.

The firm expressed the importance of local team partners, and any substitutes that will work with the team must be approved by the county.

Mr. Parde commented that they began working with the county as of January 2015 and developed a print preview review for the county. One of the reasons they were asked to come present that preview was due to the project change. The project has changed from January 2012 when the project cost was \$55 million dollars, to July 2012 for the amount of \$112,973,000 to June 2014 when the schematic design was submitted it was for a project cost of \$176,690,250

When the firm came on board they analyzed the package that had been submitted to the court and found that some of the cost items had not been included in the \$176 million dollars. They line item those issues and determined that the true cost would be about \$201,825,250

Throughout the review process the firm provided the county with a list of recommendations. The county then directed the list to ERO Architects to incorporate the suggestions for a revised package, doing so reduced the

total amount to about \$147,130,973 and saving the county \$54 million dollars.

The firm has worked on projects like the Alfred A. Arraj U.S. Courthouse in Denver, Colorado, the Miami-Dade County Children's Courthouse in Miami, Florida the Tarrant County Civill Courts Building in Fort Worth, Texas. They also worked on the design for the Travis County Civil and Family Courthouse; some members of the team have also worked on Johnson County Downtown Olathe Facilities Masterplan, the Wake County Courthouse in North Carolina and are currently working on the Will County Courthouse in Chicago, Illinois. Currently working on the on the King County Children and Family Justice Center in Seattle, Washington the Kent County Courthouse in Michigan and the Indianapolis Consolidated Justice Facility in Marion County.

In going through the process the firm also developed another list of peer review and site development issues, accounting for the potential closing of Business Highway 281, keeping public parking closer to the site, taking into consideration drainage problems and public utilities infrastructure.

Mr. Parde stressed the importance of experience and emphasized on their understanding of large projects and issues. In regards to the recommended construction method, they agree with it. Stating that it is a great idea for the project, it helps coordinate the design throughout the process. They have the strong understanding of the building type. They have experienced successful work through working with the construction manager, such as at the Tarrant County Civil Courts Building in Fort Worth, Texas.

Furthermore, after reviewing the project schedule they have been able to shorten the construction time from almost 5 years to at least 3 years. They'll be able to accomplish this time frame by using the CMAR process and overlapping the design phase and start sooner. Currently they are working on similar projects in Travis County and Will County both, under the designing stage.

The HOK team presented a 3D model design of the future site for the courthouse; they showcased a model of how the design would look with the potential closure of Closner Blvd. After looking at scope of the project and with the recommendations they reduced the size of the project. They also indicated that not having to close the highway would save time and money, by avoiding replacing any utilities or stopping any lights in the surrounding area. Moreover, they suggested providing sufficient public parking to help the public reduce the amount of time to park and walk into the courthouse. On the other hand, they mentioned to the court the set up around Austin's Capital and how it could also work for the new Hidalgo County Courthouse. They suggested having the building sit in the center from both sides of University Drive, and not to the side.

Commissioner Cantu expressed his content with the placement and the

potential reduction of construction time. He mentioned that if they do decide to close Hwy 281 they would have to wait on permissions. The architect team implied that this design could work better for future expansions to the building. They also suggest facing the building to the west, due to better parking solution and better presentation.

Commissioner Palacios asked if they'll be able to see better saving going sideways or by going higher.

The engineer informed to the commissioner that it would depend on when they decide to do it. If they decide to build the courthouse for the 24 courtrooms currently projected, then they could easily do that now. However if they decide to build high and add a floor now, that would add to the cost.

Commissioner Flores asked about any potential parking garage to extend on the side of the building.

The engineers mentioned to the commissioner that they don't really need it, but would sit on the west side of the site.

They mentioned that a challenge presented for this project is the high water table. In regards Mr. Mahendra informed the court about his background experience. Reminding the court about the 19 story Chase Building in McAllen, which he design. As well as the construction of a 47 story building, in addition to two 12 story high buildings under HOK.

Mr. Mahendra emphasized to the court that he would be the one to direct the project hands on. He could also save 33% on the cost of the project by designing unity among columns and beams, indicating that it could be cheaper to go up than to go sideways as repetition of the foam.

Commissioner Cantu and Judge Garcia asked about Mr. Mahendra's relationship with HOK.

He informed to the court that he is an employee of HOK.

Both Mr. Bradley and Mr. Parde reminded the court that HOK is a full architectural and engineering firm and has full house structural in-house MBP's, Mr. Mahendra runs the structural group for HOK. The firm has both the Dallas and Houston offices focus on the Hidalgo County Courthouse Project. The Houston office concentrates on high building and embassies, that's where Mr. Mahendra is located.

Judge Garcia informed the members that the county would not be selecting the people to do the work; they'll only be approving the subs. The selection would be the firm's responsibility and would be liable under HOK policy.

The architects affirmed with the judge and informed to him that they'll be stamping and approving all the drawings. They have standard

agreements with all other sub consultants to make sure they have the appropriate liabilities.

Judge Garcia questioned the kind of liability they would require for this type of project.

The team indicated that they have seen up to \$5 million in professional liability for this type of project; however some counties go higher than that.

Judge Garcia disclosed to the firm about a local school district that was involved in a case required \$25 million and was approved by the contractor firm and the architect firm. The judge informed that this was for a high school project. Commissioner Flores commented that it was project of about \$50 to \$70 million dollars.

Mr. Bradley expressed that it was a high amount for that type of project, however they are willing to seat down and negotiate any amounts for this project. Recently they have agreed on a \$10 million dollar liability project in Dallas, Texas.

Commissioner Cantu asked if they felt comfortable with the current schematic design and taking it to the design phase.

Mr. Bradley advised that this would depend on different options, including moving the building which could bring more additional rework. As far as now, they do not anticipate any major changes into the design. The program space gives them the advantage of utilizing all the work that has already been done.

According to Judge Garcia, the firm that was involved in the schematic design will provide a model to be able to appreciate the size of the courtrooms and allow for judges or anyone to go and see the size of the courtroom. Judge Garcia asked if this could be something they would be willing to provide as well.

Mr. Schwartz informed the judge that they don't take on any courthouse project without doing a full size mockup early on, in order to get approval. They seek to get suggestions from everyone who is going to be in the courtroom, judges, attorneys or court reporter, all these input provides them when an idea of the space needed it. They have had a full functional courtroom that was tested for one year.

Commissioner Palacios asked about any potential local subs that could be consider for the project and for what element they could be consider for.

Mr. Schwartz mentioned that they could anticipate working with ROFA Architects, Inc. however, HOK is a full service firm that work design and consulting. They could do the entire front to back interior courthouse design, except for the civil engineering and geo-tech and the security

electronics technology for that they'll look outside for other firms. The firm assured they understand the importance of local connection and to be able to provide advantage to being nearby.

Commissioner Cantu expressed his desire to bring as many local firms as possible without jeopardizing their company's experience. The firm was able to bring 15 local firms to the Travis County Project.

Judge Garcia questioned at what stage they'll be able to provide them with the local firms.

HOK representatives informed that currently they have ROFA Architects, Inc., SSP Design out of Brownsville, Texas. They're also counting with DBR Engineering, Mr. Edward Fuentes Principal for DBR Engineering, came in representation of the firm. He mentioned that they have provided a local firm in McAllen, Texas for the last 10 years. The firm's experience has been on schools, municipal buildings, worked at Bentsen Towers in McAllen, Texas. Both firms have worked together on over 6 projects and are experienced with each other.

Referring back to the list of local firms they have also added Mr. Rick Hinojosa for the early stage preparation, which could be present on a day to day basis.

Commissioner Cantu questioned the current stage of the Tarrant project.

Mr. Bradley informed the commissioner that the Tarrant Project was completed this summer, after completing this project the firm was awarded the new Criminal Courthouse Project.

Commissioner Palacios and Commissioner Cuellar stepped away from the meeting.

Commissioner Cantu requested to have delivered the number of elevation for the Terrant County project.

Commissioner Cantu stepped away from the meeting.

Judge Garcia stepped away from the meeting and Commissioner Palacios joined the meeting.

Commissioner Palacios stepped away from the meeting.

Mr. Valde Guerra informed HDR representatives about the 10:00 minute time frame. However, he notified to them that the previous presenters went over 2.5 minutes therefore, they're going to be allowed to present for 12.5 minutes.

Commissioner Flores stepped away from the meeting./ All court members joined the meeting.

Presentation by HDR.

Mr. Mike Brenchley, Senior Vice President HDR and National Director Justice Program for HDR introduced Vice President Mr. Halden Tally and Mr. John Niesen Project Manager. The HDR team is base out of Dallas, Texas. HDR is a full service multi-disciplinary firm with over 183 technical disciplines within the organization. The firm assures to be capable of addressing any situations that come up while working on this particular project with their in-house personnel. However, they've learned that this is civic architectural and courthouses in particular are best delivered when there's a connection to the culture of its community. That's how the firm prefers to work, engaging best in class with local professionals work with them to use the best in industry practice to produce timeless solutions that are adaptable, flexible, and cost effective and reflects the community in which they live.

The HDR teams has spent the last 3 years working with ERO Architects, HALFF Associates and the stakeholders and are extremely proud of the work they've been able to produced.

The team mentioned some of the firms that have joined the team including ERO Architects, The Warren Group Architects, L & G Engineering, WJHW and HALFF Associates are all firms representing the local professionals.WJHW Firm is an acoustics company.

Moreover, the HDR in-house leadership team is composed by Mike Brenchley, John Niesen and Halden Tally. This team would be in charge of working on executive decisions, contracts, delivery of models, costs and schedule would be overseen by the team and Mr.Brenchley. Mr. Brenchley informed that Mr.John Niesen would be the Project Manager and assured that he has excellent experience working on courthouse projects in Texas. Mr. Halden Tally would continue to be the Co-Project Architect. The other in-house team is composed by Mrs. Kate Diamond who is an award winning courthouse designer and is recognized by the General Service Administration as an Excellent Designer Peer, and is 1 out of 22 people in the United States to have that designation. Mrs. Carol R. Lanham is a Former Assistant Circuit Executive for U.S. Courts, she's going to be focused on architectural quality control and move the transition planning which is going to be critical for the ultimate success of this project. Mr. Martin Aguirre is going to be in charge of the Building Information Modeling and lead the technical discipline coordination in the architectural models.

The engineering service team includes Mr. Scott McMillan, Jim Gabel and Jeffrey Hargens who would be in charge of working with the proposal sub constructing team to assured of the best industry wide best practice into the final design and follow to final construction.

In addition they also account for propose local professionals that include Mr. Eli R. Ochoa who has 8 years of background experience on this particular project. Mr. Octavio Cantu has worked with HDR for the last 3

years and contributed to develop technical principals and guidelines. Ms. Laura N. Warren would lead the interior design and will work along with Ms. Diamond to deliver the best design principals that have been established on the schematic design.

Other potential local professionals include Mr. Trey Murray who has worked with HDR on the development of systems for the courthouse along with other engineers at HALFF Associates. Mr. Rene Garza with WJHW, the company is in charge of taking care of acoustics for the courtrooms. Mr. Behrooz Badiozzamani from L & G Engineering would be in charge of the civil coordination.

The firm's courthouse portfolio includes three Texas projects in Ellis County and Hays County. Government projects include the Rio Grande Valley Border Patrol Sector Headquarters, and have done 4 separate contracts on that section on Trenton Road and Hwy 281. The Border Patrol Sector Headquarters won the best National Design from the American Institute of Architects.

In relation to the CMAR, HDR has been involved in over 2.5 million of square feet of CMAR delivery projects in Texas. Throughout this process they've learned that Texas Counties have learned to accept the CMAR later in the project, accepting them towards the end of DD, mid-construction documents deliverable before GMP commitment. According to the firm this is done perhaps because they're unsure on how to deal with initial small or multiple packages. HDR assures that they'll work with the county to fix any issues or concerns in regards to the CMAR and figure out a comfortable level. That information creates the proposed project schedule with construction starting the 1st quarter of 2017 with construction completion last quarter of 2018. The schedule could be optimize and improve by bringing the CMAR on board as early as possible, allowing for early attention construction package for civil site foundations on the first four months are the design development phase. If the CMAR is on board by then, then they could collaborate and allow for a better improve schedule. If they do take and accept the early packages that would allow to move the some numbers back and start faster and save about \$ 1.5 to 2 million dollars just on escalation alone for a project this size.

They have incorporated 4 million principals into the development of the project, identifying the scope validations with stakeholders and construction manager to on the same page. The firm has its own data base to benchmark cost estimates. All five of the projects submitted were under budget, most recent Texas Projects, Hays County Courthouse savings of \$14 million dollars and the Ellis County Courthouse with \$1 million dollars in saving.

To close the presentation the team assured that they are pleased with what has been accomplished with the Hidalgo local team. They've been able to validate the cost savings that were recommended on the schematic design report. The schematic design was adopted; they were

able to satisfy the city on the exterior design and achieved sign off from all the stakeholders. They assured to be the best qualify team for this project. The team is engaged and passionate to continue forward on this journey to complete this project. They have the CMAR experience to deliver this project, know Texas courts and the team has deep ties with the community.

The construction timeline is 22 months and if they accept early packages they could pull it back and have an overall schedule of 22 months. Early design time line was 32 months with total overlaps time and if they accept early design packages they could compress it by at least 2 to 3 months and work with the CMAR.

Commissioner Cantu expressed his concerns over the potential closure of Hwy 281 and the drainage improvements that would have to be made. He asked the team if they have been in communication with MPO to help with some of those cost in relation to closing Hwy 281 and the redesign of stop lights or drainage improvements, and if it's been accounted for on the 3 year plan.

The team informed the commissioner that it has been anticipated that it will be running concurrently. When they've done similar things before, they've seen project right of way improvements with the project site it's a matter of communication and collaboration working with the courthouse contractor.

The commissioner asked how they'll be working concurrently if the foundation sits right on Hwy 281. Once they start bringing dirt and creating the foundation they'll be working on Hwy 281 and the road is going to have to be closed.

Again, Mr. Badiozzamani expressed that they'll welcome L & G input on that concern.

Mr. Jacinto Garza informed that they'll be glad to work with HDR as far as coordinating that item, as the roads circulate around the courthouse square. They've already initiated work with the MPO, also according to the representative they've been working with Commissioner Joseph Palacios since he is a representative of MPO. He has allocated about \$10 million dollars to add to a different source onto the budget. They'll be working with the MPO and HDR to assist them with what relates to the coordination with TXDOT. Only if it is part of the contract, if it's not part of the contract they could add civil firm as well.

Commissioner Cantu acknowledged that it is completely separate but they'll still be working with them on date planning. The commissioner asked what would be the time frame if the county does receive money from the MPO.

In regards, Mr. Garza informed the commissioner that for the roadway they would have to do an environmental clearance because it is not

going to need any right of way and could be done on an 11 month period. They should be able to schedule any improvements on FM 107 and Hwy 281 and be on the time frame schedule.

Commissioner Flores asked how long it would take for the MPO to appropriate funds.

Mr. Garza informed the commissioner that the MPO should be attending Commissioners Court within the next month or two to appropriate any additional funds. After that there shouldn't be an issue as far as meeting the time line for clearing the environmental, drainage should also not affect HDR's design.

Commissioner Palacios mentioned some issues he sees with the design of the footprints of the building from the last presentation. The commissioner expressed his appreciation for the extensive work that has been done however, he voiced his concerns over the proposal or alternate for the building to seat somewhere else, doing so wouldn't require closing Hwy 281. The commissioner questioned the commitment by HDR on looking at potential alternatives that could cost major savings to the overall project and not only to the brick and mortar.

In regard, Mr. Tally informed the commissioner that the biggest savings happen at the early stages while working with the CMAR.

Mr. Eli Ochoa communicated to Commissioner Palacios that when they worked on the master plan they looked at different options on where to locate the building. One of the outcomes they wanted from the master plan was to use the least amount of land as possible, as they know the county will continue to grow. By doing that they'll provide the county the ability to add structures, whether is another court building, parking garage or whatever may be. Therefore the idea of the strategy was presented and the appointees by the court members approved the location within the master process. Mr. Ochoa added that this building is going to take deep foundations and those are very time consuming, therefore by starting on the east side of the building they'll be able to save at least 2 to 3 months before the foundation is constructed. When they sequence those projects they just don't start with the foundation and do the entire foundation, they start with one end and work their way across. In working with the construction manager a lot of that sequence is discuss during the process and that's the advantage of CMAR. Overall Mr. Ochoa stated their goal is to reach a shorter period of time for the construction. He reminded the members that when they did the first schematics package they were looking at an escalation factor of about \$9 million dollars a year to be added to this project.

Commissioner Cantu pointed out that he did not understand the closing of Hwy 281 and stated to Mr. Ochoa that he didn't think it would happen as easy as he stated.

Mr. Ochoa indicated that they still have to design the foundation and

complete a lot of designer work. At this point they're considering starting the foundation 6 or 7 months from now. If they work their way from east to west they could have US 281 closed in 10 months.

Commissioner Cantu openly asked if Hwy 281 could be closed in 10 months.

L & G representative informed the commissioner that TXDOT would be the main agency to respond to that question. Closing a state road means coordination, and it needs to get started now. The state won't allow for a state road to close in such quick notice, there has to be a traffic study done and the state needs to be convinced it needs to be done. There has to be a temporary test to find out how traffic is going to be handled.

Commissioner Flores stepped away from the meeting.

Once more Commissioner asked about a specific time frame to close Hwy 281.

Mr. Badiozzamani informed to the commissioner that this is not easy to tell since they're getting involved with state property. However he informed the judge and the commissioner that it could happen within a year.

Commissioner Cantu informed that soon they'll be hiring civil, on which Mr. Badiozzamani expressed that this would start putting the process together. He also mentioned that if they run into any surplus property they'll have to go through certain procedures to get it sign off.

Commissioner Cantu asked what would be the worst case scenario even if they go full speed.

Mr. Badiozzamani expressed that the main thing is to convince the local TXDOT that there're alternatives to the closing of that road.

Commissioner Flores joined the meeting.

Ms. Salazar informed the court that they had an option to score or leave it for a decision for next week's meeting. They could also finalize scores when they have the same type of procedure for the civil engineers.

Judge Garcia mentioned that they were not ready to proceed with the finalization of scores.

Commissioner Palacios suggested introducing a formal action if any of the commissioners was ready to take action. In regards, Ms. Salazar indicated to the commissioner that it could also be sent to her office. The commissioner decided that this was not a good idea after all.

Commissioner Cuellar asked Judge Garcia what action he would rather take.

Judge Garcia requested to wait since this would be the most critical contractor agreement they'll enter to.

Ms. Salazar informed the judge that she would be sending him information in regards to the civil engineer questioner. They'll be distributing the questioner to the committee members on Monday and would have to set up another workshop to hear the civil firms.

Commissioner Cantu questioned the need for civil engineering presentations.

Ms. Salazar mentioned that it was up to them to decide if to have civil engineer presentations.

Commissioner Palacios suggested keeping the civil separate and not within the architects.

Ms. Salazar informed that tomorrow they'll be receiving the questioner from the civil firms and distribute Monday. Therefore, they could be making two decisions on the meeting set for April 19, 2016 that would be the final scores for architects and the scores on the civil if they do not need presentations for the civil.

Judge Garcia asked Mr. Valde Guerra to coordinate a special meeting before the 19th to score architects.

No action taken on this item.

Court proceeded to adjourn.

2. Geo-technical and Construction Materials Testing Firms:

- A. Terracon Consultants, Inc.
- B. Professional Service Industries, Inc.
- C. Millennium Engineers Group, Inc.
- D. L & G Consulting Engineers, Inc.
- E. Raba Kistner, Inc.

Ms. Salazar explained some rules on how the presentations were to occur. She reported that the presentations were going to be from the nominated two categories providers, architects and geo-technical construction materials testing firm. She validated with the judge in regards to the order of the presentations, explaining that the order could be as they wish it to be.

Commissioner Palacios stepped away from the meeting.

Ms. Salazar requested for everyone else to wait out on the west side of the building, as they were not allowed to see or hear the other presentations. The audio was turned off in the hallway.