



**MINUTES OF THE ABILENE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
November 15, 2011**

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 15, 2011, in the City Council Chamber at Abilene City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, Texas.

Members Present:

Judge Downing Bolls, Taylor County
Judge Dale Spurgin, Jones County
District Engineer Lauren Garduno, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

Members Absent:

Mayor Norm Archibald, City of Abilene, Chair
Councilman Joe Spano, City of Abilene

Non-voting Members Present:

None

Others Present:

Mr. Jon James, City of Abilene
Ms. Megan Santee, City of Abilene
Mr. Chad Carter, City of Abilene
Mr. James Condry, City of Abilene
Mr. John Pleveich, CityLink
Mr. Alan Hufstutler, TxDOT, Abilene
Mr. Stan Smith, City of Abilene
Ms. Kathy Turner, Work Force Solutions
Mr. Zach Gilbert, Congressman Neugebauer's office
Mr. Dennis Reiling, Citizen
Mr. Joe Clark, TxDOT, Region

MPO Staff in attendance:

Ms. E'Lisa Smetana, Abilene MPO Staff
Mr. Thomas Cook, Abilene MPO Staff
Mr. Dean Carter, Abilene MPO Staff

1. Call to Order.

Vice-Chairman Spurgin announced a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Consideration of Approval of the Minutes for the September 20, 2011 Meeting.

There was no discussion on the minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes as printed was made by Mr. Garduno and second by Judge Bolls.

Motion carried.

3. Discussion and Consideration of Approval of a FINAL Amendment to the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Ms. Smetana discussed the amendment for the Fiscal Year 2011 transit projects. This amendment was to add two projects for the FTA Section 5310 grant funds (Elderly and Disabled). One project was the purchase of a paratransit bus in the amount of \$63,000 and an additional \$10,710 in Transportation Development Credits. The second project was for preventative maintenance in support of paratransit service in the amount of \$20,000 with an additional \$4,000 in local match for a total of \$24,000.

There was a public review from September 25th thru October 7th with no comment received.

Motion to approve the final amendment was made by Judge Bolls and second by Mr. Garduno.

Motion carried.

4. Discussion and Consideration of Approval of the Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER).

This report allows the general public, TxDOT, FHWA, and FTA to see the work that is being done by the MPO. Addresses each task assigned in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). It allows monitoring of the work programs and funding that the MPO/Transit Agency receives. Numbers will have to be adjusted based on the close of the fiscal year on November 17th. The report is due to TxDOT Regional – Draft - November 18th, Final - December 21st and due to FHWA/FTA – December 31st

Budget Summary FY 2011

Total TPF funds: Programmed Dollars	
Amount programmed -	\$246,000.00
Amount expended -	\$180,533.90
Balance of programmed -	\$65,466.10
% expended of programmed -	73.39%

Total TPF funds: Authorized Dollars	
Amount Authorized -	\$465,788.98
Amount Expended -	\$180,533.90
Balance of Authorized -	\$285,255.08
% expended of Authorized -	38.76%

Total Section 5307 funds: Programmed Dollars

Amount programmed -	\$72,000.00
Amount expended -	\$88,390.00
Balance of programmed -	(\$16,390.00)
% expended of programmed -	122.76%

Total Section 5307 funds: Authorized Dollars

Amount Authorized -	\$92,400.00
Amount Expended -	\$88,390.00
Balance of Authorized -	\$4,010.00
% expended of Authorized -	95.66%

Total Local funds: Programmed Dollars

Amount programmed -	\$18,000.00
Amount expended -	\$22,098.00
Balance of programmed -	(\$4,098.00)
% expended of programmed -	122.77%

Total Local funds: Authorized Dollars

Amount Authorized -	\$23,100.00
Amount Expended -	\$22,098.00
Balance of Authorized -	\$1,002.00
% expended of Authorized -	95.66%

Minimum discussion was held on this item. Motion was made by Mr. Garduno to approve the 2011 APER with language stating that there will be some additional information coming in on the September expense report added. Second was made by Judge Bolls.

Motion carried.

5. Discussion and Consideration of Approval of the Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects.

OBLIGATED IN FY 2011

FTA's definition of Obligated is when grant is awarded.

FHWA definition of Obligated is when project agreement is executed.

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS

Total cost for all projects =	\$10,670,537.28
Highway portion =	\$7,267,711.28
Transit projects/non-highway =	\$3,402,826

Discussion was held. Motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects was made by Judge Bolls and second by Mr. Garduno.

Motion carried.

6. Discussion and Review of Transportation Projects.

(By MPO Staff, TxDOT Staff, City Staff, and CityLink Staff)

Mr. Chad Carter (City Engineer) discussed the projects under construction by the City of Abilene which included the following:

- Pine Reconstruction and Median Construction;
- Rebecca Lane and Catclaw Intersection / South 7th & Sayles Intersection;
- Water Department Street and Miscellaneous Repair Work 2010 – 2011;
- Miscellaneous Alley Repair 2010 (Phase 11);
- South Side Miscellaneous Streets Phase 1 (Seal Coat);
- Sidewalk Construction on Judge Ely Blvd. Phase 111;
- North 7th Street Sidewalk.

Mr. Chad Carter also discussed those projects in the design phase by the City of Abilene:

- Engineering Division Miscellaneous Repair Work 2011-2012;
- South Side Miscellaneous Streets Phase II (Butternut, South 7th, Sayles, South 14th);
- South 1st from Locust to Butternut (enhancement with landscaped medians);
- Drainage, Street, and Sidewalk Improvements (Leggett, South 7th, Danville, South 14th);
- Drainage, Street, and Sidewalk Improvements (Mockingbird, North 10th, Grape, North 1st).

Mr. Bobby Sharp (Grants Administrator) of CityLink, discussed their current projects:

Completion of last ARRA project of two bus shelters (3309 Sherry Lane and N. Mockingbird in front of library)

Purchase of para-transit vans (~ \$ 750k via four grants)

Installation of new bus wash system

Installation/renovation of air evacuation system in maintenance

Conversion of one 8,000 gallon diesel fuel tank to unleaded fuel with installation of gas pump

Installation of hose reels for fluid dispensing in maintenance

Purchase of new floor jacks and bottle jacks for maintenance

Repaving of entrances and exits to maintenance bus wash area with concrete

Purchase and installation of two (2) LED information signs for CityLink lobby and passenger transfer areas

Purchase of automatic bill counting machine for fare counting

Rehabilitation of front lobby entrance and exits for ADA access

Purchase of one or two used trolleys to replace two non-functional trolleys in CityLink fleet

Installation of possibly eight (8) more shelters at to-be-determined locations (contingent upon CityLink being able to move local match funds from another project)

Mr. Alan Hufstutler (TxDOT Area Engineer) discussed the projects that TxDOT is currently working on:

FM 2833 from SH 351 to the Jones County line (*Excavation, Embankment, Base*)

US 83 from FM 2404 to near *Hawley (Hot Mix Overlay)*

US 83 West Frontage Road at Antilley Road (*Intersection Improvements/Turn Lane*)

FM 1750 at SH 36 (E.S. 11th St.) (*Flashing Beacons*)

FM 3438 (Arnold Blvd.) at Hartford St. (*Signal Upgrade*)

No action was required or taken.

7. Discussion and Review of Staff Report and any action in connection thereto:

Financial Status:

Ms. Smetana presented the financial status of the MPO as of September 16, 2011. This includes the authorization amount of \$465,788.99, expenditures of \$164,106.50, with a remaining balance of \$301,681.49. This was compared to the TxDOT billing summary showing the monthly billings. The commitment analysis report was presented that shows actual items expended for periods 11 - 12.

Operation Report:

Ms. Smetana discussed the work the MPO has accomplished from September 16th thru November 10th, 2011. Details were included in the Board packets.

Director's Report:

Funding Issues/Legislative Update

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21)

Negative consequences to non-TMA MPOs is the possible elimination of all MPOs under 200,000 in population, the loss of planning funds to our area, and TxDOT being burdened

with additional planning responsibilities. On March 31, 2012 the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill expires. The plan of action is to send letters to local legislators, the other states involved, and to have a TEMPO meeting on November 30th in Austin.

Further discussion was held on this topic.

Public Participation Plan and MPO Identity Workshop

Draft PPP will be developed with the help of the Technical Advisory Committee and help from the Community.

Travel Demand Model (TDM)

Need validated model from TxDOT will begin work on the Texas Workforce Commission data.

Railroad Quiet Zones Subcommittee

Subcommittee met on October 4th for an initial discussion, research assignments to members of the subcommittee with the next meeting scheduled for November 16th.

AMPO Conference and other training

E'Lisa and Tom attended the conference in Dallas Texas on October 25-28 with sessions on transportation, small MPOs, data collection, bicycle/pedestrian planning, sustainable communities, environmental justice, greenhouse gas, innovative financing, operations, performance measures, transit-oriented development, and travel demand modeling

2012 MPO Meeting Schedule

2012 meeting dates: January 17, March 20, May15 July 17, September 18, November 20.

Motion to accept dates as stated made by Mr. Garduno and second by Judge Bolls.

8. Opportunity for Members of the Public to Make Comments on MPO Issues.

Dennis Reiling spoke in opposition to the railroad quite zone.

9. Opportunity for Board Members to Recommend Topics for Future Discussion or Action.

Railroad quite zone, I-20 frontage roads, Loop 322 and Hwy 36, MPO identity and public participation plan, formalization of project selection process, by-law amendment, Ambler corridor

10. Adjournment.

Chairman Spurgin adjourned the MPO Policy Board meeting at 2:15 p.m.