



**MINUTES OF THE ABILENE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD  
May 11, 2011**

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 2:00 pm, Wednesday, May 11, 2011, in the City Council Chamber at Abilene City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, Texas

**Members Present:**

Mayor Norm Archibald, City of Abilene, Chair  
Mr. Lauren Garduno, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)  
Councilman Joe Spano, City of Abilene  
Judge Downing Bolls, Taylor County

**Members Absent:**

Judge Dale Spurgin, Jones County

**Non-voting Members Present:**

None

**Others Present:**

Mr. Chad Carter, City of Abilene  
Mr. Joe Clark, TxDOT, West Region  
Mr. James Condry, City of Abilene  
Mr. Blair Haynie, TxDOT, Abilene District  
Mr. Alan Hufstutler, TxDOT, Abilene Area  
Mr. Jon James, City of Abilene  
Ms. Megan Santee, City of Abilene  
Mr. Stan Smith, City of Abilene  
Mr. Roy Wright, TxDOT, Abilene Area  
Mr. Mike McMahan, Chamber of Commerce  
Ms. Chris Moscarelli, City of Abilene  
Mr. Charles Anderson, Abilene Reporter News

**MPO Staff in attendance:**

Mr. Robert Allen, Abilene MPO Staff  
Mr. Dean Carter, Abilene MPO Staff  
Ms. E'Lisa Smetana, Abilene MPO Staff

**1. Call to Order.**

Chairman Archibald called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes for December 21, 2010, February 15, 2011, February 28, 2011, and March 28, 2011 Meetings.**

Discussion on minutes was held. Motion to accept as read was made by Judge Bolls and seconded by Councilman Spano.

*Motion carried.*

### **3. Consideration of Draft FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program.**

Ms. Smetana stated the draft UPWP is due June 1<sup>st</sup> with the final due August 1<sup>st</sup> to TxDOT. Figures are based on estimates and will be amended when final budget figures are available. Information was presented on each of the five tasks, along with explanations of expenses and breakdown of PL-112, FTA 5303, and FTA 5307 dollars. The budget summary was discussed with a total of \$332,343 programmed.

Mr. Allen discussed carryover funds which are estimated around \$220,000 - \$240,000. General discussion followed.

Motion to accept DRAFT UPWP as read was made by Mr. Garduno and seconded by Councilman Spano.

*Motion carried.*

### **4. Consideration of Future Meetings.**

Chairman Archibald stated that previously it had been discussed about the Board meeting every two months. Ms. Smetana talked about having a July meeting and maybe an August because of Draft UPWP and Final UPWP due dates.

*Chairman Archibald requested the next MPO meeting be held at 1:30 p.m. on July 12, 2011 and hearing no dissent declared the date to be set.*

### **5. Consideration of MPO Staffing Issues.**

Ms. Smetana briefed the Board on the status of applications for the transportation planner II/III. The MPO will set up a committee to review and recommend any applicants to the board. Discussion followed on who does the hiring of this position. Chairman Archibald asked Mr. Smith to check on that and report back.

*No action was taken on this item.*

### **6. Consideration of Open Meetings Act Issues Relative to MPO Structure and Process.**

(Item was taken to Executive Session)

*No action was taken on this item*

### **7. Consideration of Issues Concerning MPO Technical Committee and Management Structure.**

(Item was taken to Executive Session)

*No action was taken on this item.*

### **8. Financial Status and Work Progress Report.**

Ms. Smetana briefed the Board on the status of the MPO financial report. A spreadsheet was shown that discussed the Work Orders beginning in October 2010 to the latest received in May 2011 totaling \$465,788.99 with expenditures of \$69,987.07 and remaining balance of \$395,801.92. General discussion followed on the work to be accomplished.

Ms. Smetana briefed the Board on the work-in-progress that the MPO staff has accomplished for the month of April and part of May 2011. Mr. Allen discussed the 2010 Census data and the equalization tables. Ms. Smetana discussed Proposition 12 bond proceeds, upcoming possible rescissions, statewide transportation improvement program's new website, 2030 Committee information, and the transportation reauthorization bill.

Judge Bolls stated that some of the current legislative bills have the possibility to impact bridge weight limits, funds, etc. on county roads so they are watching them closely.

*No action was required or taken on this item.*

### **9. Discussion of Category 3 Urban Mobility Funds Projects.**

Mr. Haynie discussed the two projects in detail. South Clack at Antilley is estimated at \$270,000 and FM 3438 at Hartford Street is estimated at \$120,000. Both projects have been moved to a September letting. We have approximately \$410,000 available for Category 3 projects. Mr. Garduno discussed additional information on the projects. General discussion followed.

*No action was required or taken on this item.*

### **10. Discussion of Status of Transportation Projects.**

Mr. Haynie briefed the Board on receiving \$9.6 million under the 425 Plan that could be used for projects in the Abilene District. Mr. Garduno stated that this is not new money just the ability to leverage future dollars. Mr. Haynie discussed the following projects in detail:

- Hwy 89 from FM 126 to US 277
- US 83 from Taylor Co. line to South of Hawley
- FM. 2833 from Jones Co. to Hwy 351

Chairman Archibald discussed the frontage roads and the need to convert to one-way for safety concerns and future planning.

Ms. Smetana briefed the Board on the status of various TxDOT transportation projects in the Abilene Metropolitan Area including US 83 (Ambler to N 1<sup>st</sup> Street), additional roadway resurfacing, and ADA ramps.

Mr. Carter briefed the Board on the City of Abilene projects including Pine Street, Rebecca and Catclaw Intersection, South 7<sup>th</sup> Street at Sayles Boulevard, Elm Creek Bridge riprap, and water repairs.

Mr. James briefed the Board on the City Bond Process and Capital Improvement Projects related to transportation. He discussed the upcoming Enhancement Project at South 1<sup>st</sup> Street for better pedestrian access with sidewalks, median, and streetscapes improvements. General discussion followed.

*No action was taken on this item.*

**11. Opportunity for Members of Public to Make Comments on MPO Issues.**

*Hearing none Chairman Archibald moved on to the next item.*

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

Ms. Smetana recommended future discussion of the Transportation Reauthorization Bill, final UPWP, and possible action on Transportation Planner position.

Chairman Archibald announced at 3:15 p.m. that the Board would be going into Executive Session pursuant to the Texas Government Code. The Board reconvened in open session at 3:30 p.m. Chairman Archibald announced that there was no action taken in executive session.

**13. Adjournment.**

Chairman Archibald adjourned the MPO Policy Board Meeting at 3:33 p.m.