



**MINUTES OF THE ABILENE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
July 13, 2011**

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 pm, Wednesday, July 13, 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)
Judge Downing Bolls, Taylor County
Judge Dale Spurgin, Jones County

Members Absent:

Councilman Joe Spano, City of Abilene

Non-voting Members Present:

None

Others Present:

Mr. Chad Carter, City of Abilene
Mr. James Condry, City of Abilene
Mr. Alan Hufstutler, TxDOT, Abilene Area
Mr. Jon James, City of Abilene
Ms. Megan Santee, City of Abilene
Ms. Kelly Messer, City of Abilene
Mr. Roy Wright, TxDOT, Abilene Area
Mr. Mike McMahan, Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Chris Moscarelli, City of Abilene
Mr. Zach Gilbert, Congressman Neugebauer's office
Mr. Windell Lowe, WC Vending
Mr. David Caffey, TxDOT Abilene Area

MPO Staff in attendance:

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 1:34 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the May 11, 2011 Meetings.

Discussion on minutes was held. Motion to accept as read was made by Mr. Garduno and seconded by Judge Spurgin.

Motion carried.

3. Consideration of the Final FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program and 5303 Worksheet

Ms. Smetana stated the Final UPWP is due August 1st to TxDOT. Changes from the Draft to the Final were presented including additions of Technical Advisory Committee information, change in the wording under Task I, and more information in Task 1.6 Public Involvement. Also the Summary of Approvals/Amendments/Revisions were added and the Appendices. Ms. Smetana discussed the change to the Self-Certification process which was not part of this UPWP. The budget summary was discussed with a total of \$332,223 programmed which is a change of \$120 from the Draft due to the FTA 5303 dollars coming in lower than previously thought. Estimated unexpended carryover was set at \$250,549 and information was provided about the FTA 5303 dollars.

Motion to accept Final UPWP as read was made by Mr. Garduno and seconded by Chairman Archibald.

Motion carried.

4. Consideration of Legislation

Ms. Smetana discussed the draft reauthorization bill. The legislators are suggesting that there be a two-tier approach to MPOs 1) over a million in population 2) 200,000 up to 1 million. Any MPO under 200,000 will cease to exist unless they are grandfathered in by the governor. Chairman Archibald discussed the letters that were sent to legislators discussing this issue.

Discussion was held on the topic with the motion being “As a group we would resolve to support the grandfathering opportunity for our MPO and other MPOs in the state of Texas as well so that we could continue the MPO process and take care of planning at the local level by the local transportation policy board.”

Motion made by Mayor Archibald seconded by Judge Spurgin.

Motion carried.

5. Consideration of Category 3 – Urban Area Corridor Projects

Discussion was held on the two Category 3 projects at S. Clack St. at Antilley Road and the FM 3438 at Hartford Street. Mr. Condry clarified the project scope. Discussion was held on using the proposed approximately \$24,000 remaining funds from these projects on the Proposition 12 projects.

Mr. Garduno made a Motion to use any remaining dollars that we do not utilize on Category 3 projects on the Proposition 12 projects, seconded by Judge Spurgin.

Motion carried.

6. Consideration of Projects for Proposition 12 Funding

Ms. Smetana presented information on the Proposition 12 funding of \$3 billion dollars with \$3.644 scheduled for the Abilene area. Discussion among the MPOs centered on using current funding criteria for Category 2 or new census data for the funding. Ms. Smetana presented the timelines and the need for a possible TIP amendment in August for project selected. The top five projects were discussed: IH 20 Frontage Roads, SH 351, FM 89 (Buffalo Gap Road), US 83 Access Road, and US 83 at FM 3034 with

Mr. Condry providing additional data on the project SH 351. Discussion followed on the projects. Mr. Hufstutler added information about the project. Chairman Archibald discussed one-way frontage roads and the need for them all to be the same. Mr. Garduno stated that the I-20 access project is ready to let with plans ready to go and it could meet the deadlines for submittal for this funding. He also stated that some of their Category 1 funds will be used on this project to make up the difference in cost.

Judge Spurgin made the motion that we recommend the I-20 access road project with the Proposition 12 funding along with Category 3 and then Category 1 funding will make up the balance plus whatever additional revenue that would be left over from the previous agenda item (which is the Category 3 funds) with a second by Judge Bolls.

Ms. Smetana stated that the map of the project is on the wall for the public to look at along with the SH 351 interchange that has proposed bike and pedestrian amenities. Discussion was held on the number of ramps and direction of them.

Motion carried.

7. Consideration of Future Meetings

Normally MPO meetings would be scheduled for every two months which would make them in January, March, May, July, September and November. August 16th would be an out-of-cycle meeting.

Chairman Archibald requested the following dates be adopted for the MPO policy board meetings: August 16, 2011 – September 20, 2011 – November 15, 2011

Hearing no dissent these dates are set.

8. Consideration of MPO Staffing Issues (Executive Session 3:00 – 3:17 pm)

Chairman Archibald took this item into executive session. After returning to open session, Chairman Archibald made the motion that the Abilene MPO policy board would extend an employment offer to Mr. Pete Madrid of San Angelo to fill the role of Transportation Planner II to begin approximately on August 15th, salary and benefit will be on file at the human resources department. This motion was seconded by Mr. Garduno.

Motion carried

9. Financial Status, Indirect Cost, and Planning Work Progress Report

Ms. Smetana presented the financial status of the MPO including the authorization amount of \$465,788.99, expenditure of \$104,838.95 with a remaining balance of \$360,950.04. The commitment analysis report was presented that shows actual items expended for periods 1-10. Ms. Smetana presented information on indirect cost which was proposed to increase from \$8,055 to \$20,876 for fiscal year 2012 which is high considering that the entire MPO budget is \$242,223. Comparisons to other MPOs in the West Region were presented along with the amount of money that the MPO is over-budgeted per year. Chairman Archibald suggested that he meet with City staff and the MPO staff to discuss options that we can look at to work together and try to streamline the cost.

No action was required or taken on this item.

10. Discussion of Status of Transportation Projects.

Discussion of TxDOT projects included:

- 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

Mr. Carter briefed the Board on the City of Abilene projects including Pine Street reconstruction, Rebecca Lane and Catclaw intersection, South 7th and Sayles intersection repavement, Miscellaneous alley repairs, sealcoat project, sidewalk project from BI-20 to South 11th, and the South 1st Enhancement Project.

Mr. James briefed the Board on the South 1st Enhancement Project with the advance funding agreement being complete and sent to TxDOT. The City will start the design on the project with pedestrian amenities to be included. He also discussed the Bicycle Plan that is currently being updated by a summer intern and how they will be using a citizen advisory committee along with MPO staff to help with that.

Mr. Condry discussed the transit facilities which are due to wrap up soon. Ms. Smetana talked about the multimodal feasibility study that is being led by City and Rural Rides and has received funding of \$120,000.

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.

Mr. Garduno requested that the Technical Committee look into the “quiet zones” for railroad crossings.

Chairman Archibald announced at 3:00 p.m. that the Board would be going into Executive Session pursuant to the Texas Government Code. The Board reconvened in open session at 3:17 p.m.

13. Adjournment.

Chairman Archibald adjourned the MPO Policy Board Meeting at 3:20p.m.