



**MINUTES OF THE ABILENE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD  
May 21, 2012**

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 p.m., Monday, May 21, 2012, in the City Basement Conference Room at Abilene City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, Texas.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Judge Dale Spurgin, Jones County

Non-voting Members Present:

None

Others Present:

Mr. Chad Carter, City of Abilene  
Mr. James Condry, City of Abilene  
Mr. Blair Haynie, TxDOT, Abilene District  
Mr. Jon James, City of Abilene  
Ms. Megan Santee, City of Abilene  
Mr. Stan Smith, City of Abilene  
Mr. Zach Gilbert, Congressman Neugebauer's office  
Mr. Joe Clark, TxDOT, West Region  
Ms. Darah Waldrip, TxDOT Public Information Officer  
Mr. Robert O. Briley, City Councilman  
Mr. Mike Vandervoot, National Federation of the Blind

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.**

Chairman Archibald announced that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**2. Consideration of Approval of the Minutes of the April 24, 2012 Meeting.**

Discussion was held on the minutes of the April 24, 2012 meeting. The motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Judge Bolls and seconded by Councilman Spano.

*Motion carried.*

**3. Discussion and Consideration of Approval on the Projects for the \$2 Billion Statewide Funding Allocation and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment associated with these projects.**

The recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee for the \$3.971 million dollars that was allocated to the MPO from the \$2 billion statewide funding was presented. Their recommendation was to convert the existing two-way frontage roads to one-way operation at these three sites (in the following priority):

- 1) US 83 from Canyon Rock Drive to FM 707
- 2) Loop 322 from Maple Street to Lytle Creek
- 3) Loop 322 from Lytle Creek to SH 36

The preliminary cost estimate shows that these three projects would be around \$12.5 million to build so TxDOT staff will look at what could be accomplished with the money that we have. Ms. Smetana discussed the internal time line which includes the selection of projects, amending the MTP and the TIP if needed, posting the public notice in the newspaper, public comment period of not less than 10 days, board actions on final documents and submittal to the TxDOT District by June 14, 2012.

Mayor Archibald asked that TxDOT evaluate the necessary amount of work to accomplish the goal of converting to one-way so that we can maximize the money that we have and expedite the project all while maintaining the safety and integrity of the project. TxDOT will look at the cost estimates and see what can be done to accomplish the one-way conversion.

*Chairman Archibald stated that there would be no vote on this item until after the bus tour.*

*After the bus tour this item was combined with item #9 on the frontage road conversion and action was taken under that agenda item.*

**4. Discussion and Possible Action related to the Annual Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director.**

The Policy Board went into executive session at 4:00 p.m. and reconvened at 4:35 p.m.

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

**5. Discussion and Review of Transportation Projects.  
(By TxDOT Staff, City Staff, City Link Staff)**

- ***TxDOT***

Mr. Hufstutler introduced and discussed emergency crossovers on IH 20. Work has started but mainly just stockpiling materials since the rains have kept the ditches pretty wet.

FM 2833 is at a standstill due to some business decisions the contractor made. They have about 3 months of contract time left but the project will probably not be completed as planned in the fall. It is likely that the contractor will incur significant liquidated damages.

The project on Clack and Antilley is finally complete with the exception of vegetation establishment and final cleanup. It was completed about 2 weeks past the planned completion date with 13 days of liquidated damages.

The Fort Phantom Enhancement Project is currently ahead of schedule and about 40% complete. It is anticipated that completion will occur this fall at approximately 10% under budget.

The IH 20 overlay project that let in March from west of Wells Lane to Shirley Road is getting started. Barricades were set this week and actual work should start Monday.

The FM 600 project from IH 20 to near FM 3034 that let in March will probably be starting next month.

- ***City of Abilene***

Mr. Chad Carter talked about city projects: Miscellaneous water department repair work, South side miscellaneous streets work (Butternut, South 7<sup>th</sup>, Sayles, South 14<sup>th</sup>), Engineering Division miscellaneous repair work, and miscellaneous seal coat projects (Mockingbird, North 10<sup>th</sup>, Grape, North 1<sup>st</sup>, Willis, South 7<sup>th</sup>, Sayles, South 14<sup>th</sup>). The Transportation Enhancement Project on South 1<sup>st</sup> Street from Locust Street to Butternut Street is in the design phase.

- ***CityLink***

Mr. Herr informed the board that the new 2012 bus route maps have been printed and are available for pickup. Discussion was also held on the new trolleys that would be on the streets by the first week of June.

*This item was for information only; no action required.*

**6. Discussion and Review of Reports:  
Financial Status**

Ms. Smetana briefed the Board on the status of the MPO financial report. From October 1, 2011 thru September 30, 2012 the authorized amount was \$494,071.02, with expenditures of \$118,860.98 for a remaining balance of \$375,210.04. The billing statement for February and March was included in the packets.

**Operation Report**

Ms. Smetana discussed the work staff has accomplished such as the status of the website update,

Safe Routes to School training, FY 2013-2016 TIP, information for the \$2 billion statewide projects, information on the frontage roads conversion, the audible traffic signal practice, and Regional Coordination meetings. The full report was included in the Board packet.

## **Director's Report**

### Transportation Reauthorization Bill/Legislative Update

The discussion in the legislature about the Transportation Reauthorization Bill continues to fluctuate back and forth on numerous issues. The most controversial items seemed to be the elimination of the smaller MPOs, the elimination of the transit programs, and the length of the authorization. A conference has been called and the first meeting occurred on May 8<sup>th</sup>. More information was included in the MPO packet.

### Unified Planning Work Program

The MPO staff is working on the UPWP that is due in August 2012.

### MPO Website Update

MPO staff has met with In-Focus Digital and the contract is being drafted by legal. Work should start within the next month.

### TxDOT/MPO Planning Agreement

The Planning Agreement is expiring in September of this year. The MPOs are working with TxDOT to get a new one in place.

### Meetings/Trainings

TEMPO meeting is scheduled for May 22-23, 2012 in Austin. The Transportation Conference is coming up July 17 – 20 in Dallas Texas.

## **7. Opportunity for Members of the Public to Make Comments on MPO Issues**

*No comments were received.*

## **8. Opportunity for Board Members or MPO Staff to Recommend Topics for Future Discussion or Action.**

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

## **9. Discussion and Possible Action on the Frontage Roads Conversion Project.**

### **\* WORKSHOP BUS TOUR**

**A bus tour of the upcoming projects and potential future projects needed to convert two-way frontage roads to one-way operation in Abilene.**

The Policy Board moved the meeting to the CityLink Trolley provided by Mr. Herr for the frontage road tour at 2:30 p.m. The Board members were provided a rolling tour of the project narrated by Mr. Haynie of TxDOT. There were numerous citizens, City Council members, City administrators, TxDOT representatives, and the news media present on the tour. The discussion included both the positive and the negative aspect of each segment of the proposed project.

## **RECONVENE**

**Following the bus tour the Board Members will reconvene in the Basement Conference Room to consider any action on the Frontage Roads Conversion Project.**

The Policy Board reconvened in the basement conference room at 3:45 p.m. Mr. Blair Haynie discussed the financial and technical aspects of the conversions. Mr. Garduno went on record stating that TxDOT would add their \$4.15 million dollars that the district received from the \$2 billion statewide funds to the frontage road project if that is the one the Board selects; thus, allowing a total of \$8.121 million for this project. General discussion was held on the merits of these projects (in prioritized order by the recommendation of the Technical Advisory Committee):

- Frontage road conversion - US 83 from Canyon Rock to FM 707 (approximately \$3.6 million)
- Frontage road conversion – Loop 322 from Maple Street to Lytle Creek (approximately \$2.91 million) minus the u turn lanes
- Frontage road conversion –Loop 322 from Lytle Creek to SH 36 (approximately \$6 million)

Included in the packets was a chart provided by Mr. Condry of all the frontage roads in Abilene currently operating with two-way traffic. General discussion was held. Ms. Smetana stated that the recommendation of the Technical Advisory Committee was that the proposed projects listed above be priority with the remaining two-way projects on the chart to be ranked in the future as funding becomes available.

The motion was made to allocate the MPO's \$3.971 million dollars in conjunction with TxDOT's proposed funding to make the one-way frontage roads a possibility to the full extent of our funding as discussed in the priority order as outlined by the Technical Advisory Committee by Chairman Archibald and seconded by Councilman Spano.

*Motion carried.*

## **10. Adjournment.**

Chairman Archibald adjourned the MPO Policy Board Meeting at 4:37 p.m.