



## MINUTES OF THE ABILENE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

April 15, 2014

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 15, 2014, in the Abilene City Hall, City Council Chambers, 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, Texas.

### **Members Present:**

Mayor Norm Archibald, City of Abilene Mayor and Policy Board Chairman  
Judge Downing Bolls, Taylor County  
Mr. Stan Swiatek, P.E., TxDOT Abilene District Engineer  
Judge Dale Spurgin, Jones County

### **Members Not Present:**

Councilman Joe Spano

### **Others Present:**

Mr. Joe Clark, TxDOT West MPO Coordinator  
Mr. James Condry, City of Abilene Traffic & Transportation Administrator  
Mr. Blair Haynie, TxDOT Abilene District TP&D Director  
Mr. Ben Herr, City of Abilene CityLink Transit General Manager  
Mr. Alan Hufstutler, P.E., TxDOT Abilene District Area Engineer  
Mr. Jon James, City of Abilene Director of Development Services.  
Ms. Kelley Messer, City of Abilene Legal Department

### **MPO Staff in Attendance:**

Ms. E'Lisa Smetana, Abilene MPO Executive Director  
Mr. Thomas Cook, Abilene MPO Transportation Planner  
Mr. Dean Carter, Abilene MPO Transportation GIS Technician

#### **1. Call to Order.**

Mayor Archibald called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. He noted that the meeting was formally posted and a quorum was duly present.

#### **2. Discussion and Consideration of Approval of the FINAL FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).**

Mr. Cook gave details on the FINAL 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program. There is one funded highway project, South 11<sup>th</sup> Street from South Treadaway west to Elmwood Drive. The TxDOT award was \$946,220, and the local match was \$236,555 for a total of \$1,182,775.

Mr. Cook continued onto the transit section for each of the fiscal years 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018. This is the financial part for transit and is broken down into General Operations, Administration, Capital, ADA-Paratransit, and Preventive Maintenance. The Federal money is \$2,149,661. Matching funds are \$1,462,260 for a total of \$3,611,921 per year. These numbers are consistent through the four year period. The total of federal and match for a four year period equals \$14,447,684. Mr. Cook stated that the public participation is a federal requirement. The last Policy Board meeting was the first chance the public had to review the document. There was an opportunity for the public to review and respond from March 19<sup>th</sup> to April 7<sup>th</sup>. We placed the TIP on our website and there was a public meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup> for which we placed an ad for

in the Reporter News. We received one comment which is attached to the document. Mr. Cook also stated that on the transit summary page we would need to add in the \$236,555 in the funding source to match the funding by category listed above it. Mr. Cook also discussed the Grouped Projects that were in the TIP.

The motion to approve was made by Judge Bolls and seconded by Judge Spurgin.

*Motion carried.*

**3. Discussion on the Texas Open Meetings Act and any action in connection thereto.**

Ms. Smetana discussed the Open Meetings Act. In your packets you will find the documentation supplied by the Legal staff on the findings. Judge Spurgin asked if we post that a quorum of members may be in attendance at a hearing, but there will be no action taken, would that satisfy the law. Ms. Messer answered that we would still have to open the meeting, take notes and close the meeting afterwards. Mr. Swiatek stated that this morning he was at the Traffic Safety Coalition meeting and Judge Bolls was at the same meeting. If Judge Spurgin also came into that meeting would we be in violation of the open meetings act and would one of us have to leave? Ms. Messer stated the short answer is yes. Further discussion on the Act occurred. Chairman Archibald stated that he is directing legal to get information from the Attorney General for a specific answer about quorums at outside group meetings, such as TxDOT workshops or a Town Hall meeting, and report back to staff so they may forward the information to the Board.

*No action was taken on this item.*

**4. Discussion and Review of Reports:**

• **Director's Report**

○ **Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Texas Department of Transportation's Voluntary Turnback Program**

Ms. Smetana explained that this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was presented at the March 19<sup>th</sup> TEMPO meeting in Austin. TxDOT is asking the individual MPOs to ratify the MOU and have TEMPO sign as a partner to the agreement. Currently, this is for information only as we are waiting on clarification on some items.

○ **Texas Transportation Commission Federal Priorities for 2014**

Information is provided in your packet. No discussion was held at this meeting.

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

No comments were received.

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

No suggestions or comments were received.

**7. Adjournment.**

Mayor Archibald adjourned the MPO Policy Board Meeting at 2:16 p.m.