



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

November 18, 2014

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 18, 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  
Councilman Joe Spano, City of Abilene  
Judge Dale Spurgin, Jones County, and Policy Board Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Stan Swiatek, P.E., TxDOT Abilene District Engineer

### **Others Present:**

Mr. Brian Crawford, P.E.  
Mr. Joe Clark, TxDOT TPP  
Mr. James Condry, City of Abilene Traffic & Transportation Administrator  
Mr. Blair Haynie, P.E.  
Mr. Alan Hufstutler, P.E.  
Mr. Jon James, City of Abilene Director of Development Services  
Mr. James Oliver, CityLink General Manager  
Mr. James M. Rogge, P.E., City of Abilene Interim City Engineer  
Ms. Megan Santee, City of Abilene Public Works Director  
Mr. Stanley Smith, City of Abilene Legal Department  
Ms. Mary Belle Turner, TxDOT Abilene District PIO  
Mr. Rob Woods, P.E., City of Abilene City Engineer

### **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.**

Chairman Archibald called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. He continued by stating this meeting is being videoed.

#### **2. Certificate of Appreciation for Mr. Blair Haynie, Director of Transportation Planning and Development for the Abilene District Texas Department of Transportation.**

Mayor Archibald presented a proclamation of appreciation to Mr. Haynie for his 24 years of service to the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

#### **3. Consideration of Approval of the Minutes of the September 16, 2014 Meeting.**

Chairman Archibald asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes as they were presented. Hearing no changes the motion was made by Judge Spurgin and seconded by Councilman Spano to approve the minutes of this meeting.

*Motion carried.*

**4. Discussion and Consideration of Approval of the DRAFT 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).**

Ms. Smetana explained that this is the draft of our long-range plan that is due in January 2015. Public participation will start after this Policy Board meeting. We will hold public meetings during December 8<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> in various places around the MPO area on the draft plan and notice will be posted in the newspaper. We sent out a transportation survey that we got a good return on and these results were analyzed and incorporated into the document. Ms. Smetana then proceeded to discuss various charts and figures within the draft document. She then discussed the transit and transportation projects included in the document.

After more discussion Chairman Archibald made the motion that the Policy Board approves the DRAFT 2015 – 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and sends it out for public comment. He also notated the change with the new limits on US 83 Access Road Project from IH 20 to Old Anson Road. The second was made by Judge Bolls.

*Motion carried.*

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

Mr. Alan Hufstutler, P.E. described the status and progress being made on the following projects:

*Contract Paving LP 322 one-way frontage road (Lytle Creek to Maple) - is behind schedule. Work is complete except safety lighting and 3 ramps. Ramps not yet complete are as follows: the south bound entrance ramp from Industrial (across from the AEP yard), the north bound entrance ramp from Maple (across from Cisco College), and the south bound entrance ramp from Oldham (across from the WTCOG facility). Completion of these 3 ramps will finish up the project. Work is ongoing and expected to be completed by Thanksgiving.*

*JH Strain IH 20 one way frontage roads on schedule - Work was completed on October 24, 2014. Contractor is currently completing punch list items and final cleanup.*

*Reece Construction bridge replacement on East 80 (BI 20-R) – Corrective work has been completed. Project was accepted on October 10, 2014.*

*JH Strain one-way frontage roads by Abilene Regional Hospital (US 83 between Canyon Rock Road and south of Iberis Road) – is slightly behind schedule. Work is substantially complete except signing and traffic signal activation. Traffic signals will be activated on Monday, November 10, 2014. Rest of work should be complete the week of November 10<sup>th</sup>. Punch list items include correction of joints in hot mix on west frontage road where hot mix was removed and replaced at contractor's expense.*

*JH Strain – Overlay on FM 2404 (Old Anson Road) from US 83 to Taylor County Line – just started this week and should be completed in January 2015.*

Mr. James M. Rogge, P.E. the Interim City Engineer, described the status and progress being made on the following projects:

The Miscellaneous Repair Contract is about 80% spent. This contract has been renewed for another year. The South 1<sup>st</sup> Street enhancement project is 99% complete and will be completed in the next day or so. The Engineering Division recently repaired a section of Ambler Avenue and that bumped their contract up to 80%. The Cockerell Neighborhood sidewalk project is about

70% complete. Water Department Street Repair Contract is about 57% complete. About 6 miles of new streets will be turned over to the City within the next 2 to 3 months from areas throughout the City. Several projects are about 100% designed. We're just waiting on funding and manpower to complete them.

Mr. James Oliver, the new General Manager of CityLink Transit, described the status and progress being made on the following:

CityLink Transit submitted a Request for Proposals (RFP) for new buses and the RFP is currently under review.

Bus benches-bus stop analysis has been completed and recommendations have been forwarded to the City for review.

FTA 5310 Grant-Software/AVL/Tablets- RFP completion estimated December  
FTA 5304-Planning Grant/Route Study-RFP completion estimated late December

## **6. Discussion and Review of Reports:**

### **• Financial Status**

Ms. Smetana explained that we are up to the August billing which should be submitted shortly. Currently the authorized amount is \$447,270.33. To date (as of the August 2014 billing) we have spent \$245,511.07, leaving a balance of \$201,759.26.

### **• Operation Report**

The full report is in the packet, but a few highlights include the project list and maps for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, along with compiling information and results from the MTP survey.

### **• Director's Report**

#### **○ Gas tax facts**

Ms. Smetana mentioned a few "Gas Tax Facts" see the packet for more detail.

#### **○ Prop 1**

Proposition 1 passed. Now the legislature will decide how much funding will be made available. More information on this will be presented as soon as we receive it.

#### **○ Re-evaluate the top Five (5) MPO projects.**

Ms. Smetana discussed that the Technical Advisory Committee will be looking at the re-evaluation of the top five project list.

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

No comments or suggestions were received.

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

Mr. Swiatek stated that TxDOT is looking at a Feasibility Study in 2015 on US 83/84 pertaining to access and safety.

## **9. Adjournment.**

Chairman Archibald noted that the next meeting will be January 20<sup>th</sup> and we will be looking at the Final MTP document. The meeting of the MPO Policy Board was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.