



AMENDED MINUTES OF THE ABILENE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

November 3, 2015

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 3rd, 2015, in the City Council Chambers, Abilene City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, Texas.

Members Present:

Mayor Norm Archibald, City of Abilene Mayor and Policy Board Chairman
Judge Downing Bolls, Taylor County
Councilman Bruce Kreitler, 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. Gordon Browning, City of Abilene Interim Planning and Development Services Director
Mr. Joe Clark, TxDOT MPO Coordinator West
Ms. Jill Collett, TxDOT Traffic Safety Specialist
Mr. Wayne Ekdahl, TxDOT Abilene District Area Engineer
Ms. Amanda Garcia, CityLink Assistant General Manager
Mr. Michael Haithcock, TxDOT Abilene District TP&D Director
Ms. Julie Jerome, TxDOT Austin
Ms. Kelley Messer, City of Abilene Legal Department
Ms. Jessica Pena, TxDOT Public Transportation Coordinator
Mr. Michael Rice, City of Abilene Public Works Director
Mr. James Rogge, Interim City of Abilene City Engineer
Ms. MaryBelle Turner, TxDOT Public Information Officer
Mr. Brian Yates, Abilene Chamber of Commerce Vice President Military Affairs

MPO Staff in Attendance:

Ms. Amelia Boyle, Abilene MPO Transportation Planning Technician
Mr. Dean Carter, Abilene MPO Transportation GIS Technician II
Ms. E'Lisa Smetana, Abilene MPO Executive Director

1. Call to Order.

Chairman Archibald called the meeting of the Abilene MPO Policy Board to order at 1:30 p.m. He noted that a quorum was duly present.

2. Certificates of Appreciation.

Chairman Archibald called Mr. Carter to the stage for presentation of an award in his honor for dedicated service to the Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization for over 8 years. Mr. Carter worked on numerous mapping projects for the MPO and coordinated the Motorcycle Ride to Work Day in Abilene for the past four years. He was elected as the Texas State Representative for the South Central Arc User Group (SCAUG) in April 2015. In May of 2015, Mr. Carter celebrated 20 years of service with the City of Abilene.

A Certification of Appreciation for Mr. Jon James, as previous City of Abilene Planning and Development Services Director was listed. Mr. James was a member of the MPO for over 11 years. He was unable to attend this meeting so his certification will be mailed to him.

3. Consideration of Approval of the Minutes of the August 3, 2015 Meeting.

Chairman Archibald called for any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes as they were presented. Hearing none, he asked for a motion. Judge Spurgin made the motion to approve the minutes as presented with a second by Councilman Kreitler.

Motion carried.

4. Discussion and Possible Action on Project Selection for the Fiscal Years 2016/2017 Proposition 1 Funding Allocations along with any Changes Needed to the Fiscal Years 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program.

Ms. Smetana began by touching on the background and current situation of the material included in the packet. The current TxDOT instructions are that all Proposition 1 Funding in FY 2016 and FY 2017 be let within the respective Fiscal Year (by August.) All Category 2 projects need to be listed in the November Revision of the Unified Transportation Program (UTP) in order to be approved by the Commission prior to the August 2016 let date. Abilene is estimated to receive \$2,923,000 for FY 2016 and \$1,530,000 for FY 2017 making a combined total of \$4,453,000. Included in the packet were two lists. The first is a list approved by the Policy Board at the March 17, 2015 meeting, and the second is a list of TxDOT projects presented to the Technical Advisory Committee on August 25, 2015. Also included in the packet, is a map showing where these projects are and any of them that coincide.

Mr. Haithcock presented the TxDOT projects and discussed each of them in detail. He explained that the BU 83-D (Treadaway) Project was the only one out of the ten that could actually be delivered at this time. TxDOT is hiring consultants now to begin looking at FM 89 (Buffalo Gap) #1 and #2 Projects. Mr. Haithcock discussed the other 7 projects and explained the estimated funding that would be needed for each.

Councilman Kreitler brought up the access road to Loop 322 between Oldham Lane and Highway 36. He stated that turning that road into a one way street would be a huge change to the residents living in the area and it functions extremely well as a two way street. Mr. Haithcock replied that TxDOT is still looking at the need and purpose of this project. Ms. Smetana reminded the board of the public involvement for this area and that many of the neighbors were okay with some of the options presented. Mayor Archibald recalled that the majority of the participants were happy with a one way road off Hwy 36 up to the by-pass and then cutting it off and leaving two way for the neighborhood.

Ms. Smetana stated that the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee was to forward the BU 83-D (Treadaway) Project to the Policy Board for approval. This project will be funded by the Proposition 1 FY 2016 and FY 2017 money. TxDOT will back fill any missing funds needed for this project. This project should also qualify as a grouped project.

After further discussion, Mr. Swiatek made the motion to approve the BU 83-D (Treadaway) Project for funding with a second by Judge Bolls.

Motion carried.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on an Ethical Compliance Policy.

Ms. Smetana explained the need for an ethical compliance policy and discussed the draft policy included in the packet. She further explained that the Transportation Code 472.034(c) states that the Policy Board shall adopt bylaws establishing an ethics policy and then distribute the policy. Ms. Messer explained that this will be an adopted policy, not a change to the MPO By-Laws. Judge Spurgin made the motion to accept the ethical compliance policy as written with a second by Councilman Kreidler.

Motion carried.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on Election of MPO Officers.

Ms. Smetana discussed the MPO By-Laws as they related to the election of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. She further stated that at the February 15, 2013 meeting the board elected Mayor Archibald as Chairman and Judge Spurgin as Vice-Chairman. Ms. Smetana explained that the term would be for the federal fiscal years of October 1, 2015 thru September 30, 2017. Mr. Swiatek made the motion to keep the MPO Officers as they currently are for the next two federal fiscal years with a second by Councilman Kreidler.

Motion carried.

7. Presentation on the D.R.I.V.E. Safe Coalition. (Jill Collett, TxDOT)

Ms. Collett presented the D.R.I.V.E Safe Coalition presentation. This presentation included information about what the coalition is, who they target, and why they are so important. Ms. Collett showed a video titled "Toward Zero Deaths" and spoke about the Speak-Up Program. Events such as Child Safety Seat Check-Up and National Night Out are coalition led. Mr. Swiatek recognized Ms. Collett for all her hard work and dedication to the coalition describing her as extremely self-motivated and a "gem" for our district.

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

Mr. Wayne Ekdahl, TxDOT Area Engineer, described the status and progress being made on the following projects:

Contract Paving LP 322 one-way frontage road (Lytle Creek to Maple) – Project is complete.

JH Strain IH 20 frontage road (LP 322 to BI 20 R) – Project is complete.

JH Strain BI 20-R (East 80) – Project is complete.

Contract Paving Traffic Signal at FM 707 and FM 1750 and level up and overlay on FM 1750 from Industrial to near FM 204 (Key Lane/Clark Road) - Paving is complete with signal work to begin and getting ready to stripe.

Contract Paving Access Management project on SH 351 from IH 20 to North City Limits – Project is currently behind schedule with Phase I anticipated to be completed in November. Total project completion is projected for September 2016.

Highway Intelligent Traffic Systems New signal at SH 351 and FM 2833 (East Lake Road) - Project is on schedule with the new signal in place.

Sundt Construction Ltd. Replace Bridge over UPRR on US 84 (S 1st Street) just East of Tye - Project underway and is currently ahead of schedule. US 84 is closed and a detour is currently in place. They will pour the bridge deck this week.

JH Strain US 83 frontage roads (N. 3rd St. to US 277(S.14thSt.)) – Project is complete.

JH Strain IH 20 Nolan County Line to Wells Lane - Planing and Permeable Friction Course is complete.

Nobles Construction FM 1235 and FM 166 Structure widening, subgrade widening, flex base and 2 course surface treat - This project is just beginning.

JH Strain US 277 Taylor County Planning Pavement repair and Superpave – This project is on schedule with 109 working days.

Councilman Kreitler asked when the bridge would be complete. Mr. Ekdahl stated the contractors were ahead of schedule and should be complete within the next three months.

Mr. James Rogge, Interim City of Abilene City Engineer, described the status and progress being made on the Public Works projects under construction, Public Works projects in design phase, and private development under construction projects. These include under construction Engineering Division Miscellaneous Repair Work 2013-2014, Water Department Street & Misc. Repair Work 2014-2015, Corsicana Sidewalk Project, EN 13th Street from Treadaway to Judge Ely, and the Plaza St. Sidewalk Project. Projects in the design phase includes: Industrial Street Improvements from Treadaway to Buffalo Gap Rd.; Pedestrian Bridge at Elm Creek and Clack St.; S. 11th Sidewalk from Treadaway to Elmwood; Ambler Ave. from Treadaway Blvd. to Danville Dr.; Catclaw Dr. from Rebecca Ln. to Curry Ln.; N. Willis St. from N. 1st St. to Vogel Ave.; West Lake Rd. from Ambler Ave. to Anson Ave.; S. Willis St. from S. 32nd St. to S. 14th St.; N. 5th St. from Victoria St. to Grape St.; Antilley Rd. from Buffalo Gap Rd. to S. Clack St.; Vogel St. from Danville Dr. to Grape St.; Pioneer Dr. from S. 14th St. to S. 7th St.; Leggett Dr. from S. 7th St. to S. 1st St.; N. 1st St. from RR right of way to Pioneer Dr.; N. 3rd St. from Willis St. to Hickory St.; N. 6th St./Leggett Dr. from N. 1st St. to Grape St.; Judge Ely Blvd. from E. Hwy 80 to Ambler Ave.; Texas Ave. from Dub Wright Blvd. to Hwy 277; Concrete Intersection (N. 10th & Mockingbird); and Hartford Street from Veterans Blvd. to Clack Street. Private Development under construction includes: Oldham Oaks Section 1; SouthLake Estates Section 3; SouthLake Estates Section 4; Potosi Prairie; Tuscany Ridge Addition Section 1; Bunny Run Section 2; Wylie Ridge Addition Section 1; and South Ridge Crossing Section 1.

9. Discussion and Review of Reports:

• Financial Status

Ms. Smetana addressed the financial status for FY 2015 and FY 2016. The full reports are included in the packet. For the FY 2015, Work Order Authorizations have been received in the amount of \$410,956.33, expenditures are \$234,709.50 and the remaining balance is \$176,246.83. Billings have been submitted thru August 2015 with September remaining to be submitted. For FY 2016, we have received Work Order Authorization for FTA 5303 funding in the amount of \$52,258.

• Operation Report

The full operation report is available in the agenda packet. Some highlights include worked with the City of Abilene on a Bicycle Plan that was approved at the August 13, 2015 City

Council meeting, presented to the West Texas Legislative Summit attendees over MPO funding, responsibilities, and roles, and hired a Transportation Planning Technician.

- **Director's Report**

- **Texas Freight Mobility Plan**

TxDOT is releasing the Draft Texas Freight Mobility Plan for a 30-day public comment period beginning at 8 a.m. October 9th and ending at 5:00 p.m. November 9th, 2015.

- **Legislative Update**

On October 22, 2015, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee unanimously approved the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform (STRR) Act of 2015 (H.R. 3763.) The STRR Act helps improve the Nation's surface transportation infrastructure, reforms programs and refocuses those programs on addressing national priorities, maintains a strong commitment to safety, and promotes innovation to make the system and programs work better.

- **Board Training**

With numerous new members of the MPO, we are working with TxDOT to bring board/technical training to the Abilene MPO.

- **MPO Bylaws – Membership Changes to TAC**

We will be looking at any updates needed to the Bylaws including changes to the Technical Advisory Committee membership due to job changes, etc.

- **City of Abilene's Bicycle Plan**

The City of Abilene adopted a "Bikeway Plan" in 1983 as part of the City's Master Thoroughfare Plan that identified locations for bike paths, bike lanes, and bike routes. In 2014, an update to the 1983 Bike Plan was initiated. A Citizen Advisory Roundtable was formed to facilitate this update. The goal of the plan is to outline strategies and facilities that will not only benefit those who bicycle today, but that promotes bicycling as a means of transportation for the future. The City Council at their August 13, 2015 meeting approved the updated plan.

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

No comments were received.

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

Councilman Kreitler brought up the issue of trash along the sides of Winter's Freeway. Mr. Ekdahl responded by discussing the litter pickup schedule and that TxDOT is taking a look at making some locations an as needed basis for pickup.

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

Chairman Archibald suggested this item be postponed until the February 2016 Policy Board meeting.

13. Adjournment.

The meeting of the MPO Policy Board was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.