



MINUTES OF THE ABILENE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

February 16, 2016

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 16th, 2016, 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:

Ms. Donna Boarts, Administrative Secretary Planning and Development Services
Mr. Eddie Castaneda, TxDOT
Mr. Joe Clark, TxDOT MPO Coordinator West
Mr. Wayne Ekdahl, TxDOT Abilene District Area Engineer
Mr. Michael Haithcock, TxDOT Abilene District TP&D Director
Mr. Juan Marfil, TxDOT
Ms. Kelley Messer, City of Abilene Legal Department
Ms. Chris Moscarelli, City of Abilene Finance Accountant
Mr. James Oliver, CityLink General Manager
Mr. Michael Rains, City of Abilene Director of Finance
Mr. James Rogge, City of Abilene Traffic Engineer
Mr. Dana Shoening, City of Abilene Director of Planning and Development Services
Ms. MaryBelle Turner, TxDOT Public Information Officer
Mr. Larry Wright, City of Abilene City Engineer

MPO Staff in Attendance:

Ms. Amelia Boyle, Abilene MPO Transportation Planning Technician

1. Call to Order.

Chairman Archibald called the meeting of the Abilene MPO Policy Board to order at 1:35 p.m. He noted that a quorum was duly present.

2. Consideration of Approval of the Minutes of the November 3, 2015 Meeting.

Chairman Archibald noted the change on the discussion of the Loop 322 project. Councilman Kreitler made the motion to approve the minutes with the noted changes and Judge Bolls seconded.

Motion Carried.

3. Discussion and Any Action on the Development of the FYs 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Ms. Boyle explained the timeline for having the information entered in the ESTIP by June 24th. Mayor Archibald reminded the Policy Board that the BU 83-D Project (Treadaway) was voted on

as the project utilizing Proposition 1 funding for 2016 and 2017. He noted that the action needed today was to prioritize the next two projects for the Transportation Improvement Plan.

Councilman Kreitler asked if we would be looking at any of the other projects on the top ten list today and Mayor Archibald said we were only looking at the FM 89 Buffalo Gap Road projects #1 (Winter's Freeway to Rebecca) and #2 (Rebecca to Chimney Rock) today. Mr. Swiatek mentioned the FM 3034 & US 83 overpass has been re-scoped and they have a consultant taking a look at it. Councilman Kreitler made the motion to approve FM 89 Buffalo Gap Road Projects #1 and #2 with a second by Mayor Archibald.

Motion Carried.

After the vote, Mr. Haithcock showed his presentation on TxDOT's project prioritization. He updated the Policy Board on each project and where TxDOT stands as far as progress. Consultants have been hired for FM 89 Buffalo Gap Road. Overlay & Rehabilitation on US 83-D Treadaway Blvd is scheduled to be let in May 2016. The final public involvement meeting for US 83/84 Improvements will be held on March 8, 2016. TxDOT is looking at traffic control improvements around the City of Abilene and wants to begin incorporating the yellow flashing arrow. A consultant has been hired for US 83 grade separation at FM 3034 (Landfill Rd). Mr. Haithcock mentioned that this was another unfunded project. The last three projects are in the ten year plan.

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

Mr. Ekdahl covered the update for TxDOT projects:

Sundt - Replace Bridge over UPRR on US 84 (S 1st Street) just East of Tye – Bridge/Roadwork completed ahead of schedule. Project is in vegetative establishment period.

Contract Paving Access Management project on SH 351 from IH 20 to North City Limits – Project is behind schedule. Night work is complete. Phase 2 in progress, phase 2 completion expected early summer. Project is currently behind schedule.

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). Project complete.

JH Strain - Level up and overlay on US 277 from FM 3438 to FM 1235 – Level up complete. Under seal and to begin 1st week of February. Final overlay to begin upon completion of under seal. Project is behind schedule.

BI 20 R (S. 1st St) Replace bridge rail and approach railing at Elm Creek and Moore Slough. Work to begin early spring.

BU 83 D (Treadaway) Mill and Overlay from near IH 20 to LP 322. Scheduled for April Letting.

US 84 (S 1st St) mill and overlay from Winter's Freeway to near IH 20. Scheduled for April Letting.

Mr. Marfil had a TxDOT presentation on the flashing yellow arrow left turn signal. He explained what the signals would do and the need for these yellow arrows. These will be slowly phased in around Abilene.

Mr. Wright updated the Policy Board on the City's progress on projects. The Corsicana Avenue and Plaza Street sidewalk projects are currently being finalized. South 11th Street sidewalks from Treadaway to Elmwood will begin in spring 2016 and the pedestrian bridge at Elm Creek and Clack Street will begin in the summer of 2016. Three of the bonds projects came back underbid on engineering costs; Antilley Road overlay, West Lake Road reconstruction and Judge Ely Blvd. from Hwy 80 to Ambler Ave. Catclaw Drive from Rebecca Lane to Curry Lane will go out to bid on February 23, 2016. Mr. Wright mentioned the concrete intersection (N. 10th & Mockingbird) and the CIP projects as upcoming projects. The City of Abilene has been in contact with TxDOT about the intersection at Antilley Road and Buffalo Gap. They are talking about some possible improvements and mentioned maybe it could be a future MPO project in the future.

Mr. Oliver spoke about the CityLink projects including where they are currently and moving forward. They have several grants they are working on. First one being a proposal for two full-sized transit buses which came back the first time with no bids. They changed some guidelines according to FTA and have two manufacturers lined up. FTA 5304 planning grant money from TxDOT was used for geocoding of all bus routes through Texas A&M Transportation Institute. FTA 5310 funding was for software upgrade with one bid received, the cost analysis was submitted to TxDOT today for review. There are two more aspects to their FTA 5310 funding which are broken down into travel training to reduce the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) demand and curb cuts in sidewalks to be ADA compliant. Additional FY 2016 funding will total 1.2 million dollars and will be split in half to cover transit buses and ADA buses. Mayor Archibald asked if this grant can only be used for the smaller ADA buses and Mr. Oliver replied with no, it was a choice of CityLink because the ADA demand is high and 60% of their buses are below minimum guidelines.

5. Discussion and Review of Reports:

- **Financial Status and Indirect Cost**

This item was postponed until the next meeting due to Ms. Smetana not being at the meeting. Mayor Archibald felt this was an important item that needed to be discussed with the MPO's Executive Director.

- **Operation Report**

Ms. Boyle briefly pointed out a few items from the operation report explaining the MPO prepared information on the City of Abilene's Indirect Cost Analysis and also updated the GIS sidewalk layer with current, deferred, and waived sidewalks.

- **Director's Report**

- **House Bill 20**

- **Funding Formula Update**

- **MPO By-Laws Amendments**

Discussion was held on this item. The Policy Board approved the changes made to the By-Laws with a motion by Judge Spurgin and a second by Judge Bolls.

- **Open Meeting and Public Information Act Training**

Ms. Boyle pointed out that everyone on both MPO boards have completed these

requirements.

- **Board Training**
We are still working with TxDOT and the Texas A&M Transportation Institute to secure MPO member training.
- **US 83/84 Project Third Pubic Open House on March 8th (4-8 pm)**
Public meeting moved from March 1st to March 8th at the River of Life Church.

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

No comments were received.

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

Councilman Kreitler mentioned the interchange from US 83/84 to Buffalo Gap Road and that having to merge onto Industrial is the worst possible way to get to Buffalo Gap Road. Mr. Haithcock said the consultant is taking a look at the east side of Winter's Freeway all the way to Chimney Rock and will look at all the roads. Mr. Swiatek said it gets a little complicated because some of it is not TxDOT roadways.

Judge Bolls mentioned the bottleneck we get on S. 11th Street out towards the Expo Center when the train starts to come through. It seems to always be right around lunchtime. Mr. Swiatek said the interconnections between rail crossing and traffic signals have problems.

8. Discussion and any Action on Open Carry Legislation (City of Abilene Administrative Directive No. AD-002 and AD-004).

Mayor Archibald mentioned the MPO does not fall under the City's jurisdiction for the control of this meeting. Mr. Swiatek stated they would follow the rules of wherever the meeting is being held. City Council will not post any signage for open carry or concealed carry.

No action was taken on this item.

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

This item was postponed until our next meeting in April.

10. Adjournment.

The meeting of the MPO Policy Board was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.