



MINUTES OF THE ABILENE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

June 21, 2016

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 21, 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

Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Mr. Larry Wright, City of Abilene City Engineer
Mr. Michael Haithcock, TxDOT Abilene District TP&D Director
Ms. Nancy Moore, City of Tye Mayor
Ms. Belinda Hohhertz, City of Tye City Secretary
Mr. Joe Clark, TxDOT MPO Coordinator West
Mr. Cliff Hallford, TxDOT Project Controller II
Ms. Mary Belle Turner, TxDOT Public Information Officer
Ms. Kelly Messer, City of Abilene Assistant City Attorney
Mr. Jon McMichael, KRBC TV Reporter

MPO Staff in Attendance:

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. Certificate of Appreciation for Mayor Nancy Moore – City of Tye Mayor and Technical Advisory Committee Member.

Chairman Archibald presented a certificate of appreciation to Mayor Nancy Moore of Tye for dedicated and faithful service to the Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization for over 8 years.

3. Consideration of Approval of the Minutes of the April 19, 2016 Meeting.

Chairman Archibald called for any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes as they were presented. Judge Bolls made the **motion** to approve the minutes with a **second** by Councilman Kreitler.

Motion carried.

4. Discussion and Consideration of Action on the FINAL FYs 2017 – 2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Ms. Smetana noted that the document was the same as what was previously presented at the April 19, 2016 meeting with the exception of date changes and documenting public comments. Public review was available from April 19, 2016 until May 9, 2016. She stated that two public meetings had been held with two individuals present at these meetings. She noted that no comments were received from the public. The Technical Committee had recommended forwarding the document at their meeting on May 31, 2016.

Chairman Archibald opened the public hearing on the draft document. With no public comments, the public hearing was closed. Judge Spurgin made the **motion** to approve the document with a **second** made by Councilman Kreitler.

Motion carried.

5. Discussion and Consideration of Action on an Updated MPO Projects Listing

Ms. Smetana provided historical background related to actions taken to prioritize locally desired projects. She noted that on March 17, 2015 the Policy Board had approved a list of top desired projects. On August 25, 2015 TxDOT proposed its own list of projects. Five of these projects matched up with the MPO Prioritized List and five did not. Ms. Smetana then briefly discussed the history of Proposition 1 and Proposition 7 funding and stated that the Technical Advisory Committee had forwarded a list of projects with three identified as top priorities. Ms. Smetana noted that Mr. Swiatek has asked that the Policy Board look into combining the two lists (MPO and TxDOT) into a single set of workable projects.

Ms. Smetana showed the Board a combined slate of 20 projects including projects previously listed by the MPO, those previously listed by TxDOT, those previously list by both agencies and other projects not previously listed by either entity. She emphasized that the slate presented today is not in priority order. She noted however that FM 89 projects #1 and #2 as well as FM 3034 had been validated as the top three projects by the Technical Advisory Committee and approved by the Policy Board as such previously.

Councilman Bruce Kreitler made a **motion** to approve the list as shown reiterating and making special note that FM 89 projects #1 and #2 (Buffalo Gap Road) and FM 3034 should be identified as the top priority. The motion was **seconded** by Judge Dale Spurgin.

Motion carried.

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

- I-20 Safety Study

Mr. Cliff Hallford discussed several TxDOT projects:

Contract Paving Access Management project on SH 351 from IH 20 to North City Limit - Traffic signals at 2833 and Enterprise Drive are currently flashing four-way stop. They will be put into operation June 13, 2016. JH Strain - Level up and overlay on US 277 from FM 3438 to FM 1235 – Level up complete. Paving is complete. BI 20 R (S. 1st St) Replace bridge rail and approach railing at Elm Creek and Moore Slough - Work in progress. BU 83 D (Treadway) Mill and Overlay from near IH 20 to LP 322. Let and awarded. Waiting on Work Authorization Letter. US 84 (S 1st St)

mill and overlay from Winter's Freeway to near IH 20. Work begins June 13, 2016. Metal Beam Guard Fence (MBGF) project on Danville Drive is complete.

Mr. Michael Haithcock introduced and discussed a long-range safety study in-process on I-20 regarding access management throughout the district. He indicated this study will be very data driven but will include the opportunity for public participation in the near term.

Mr. Larry Wright discussed the status of a number of projects including:

Traffic Signal at S 7th and Clack St. - power is available but has not yet been connected to this signal. It should be connected to power this week. Antilley Rd. - this is basically complete except for the purchase and installation of some traffic signal equipment for one signal light at Directors Parkway. Westlake Rd. - is under construction. Catclaw Rd. - is under construction. Judge Ely Blvd. - is suspended until July 5 due to competing contractor obligations. N 5th Street - is expected to begin around July 5. Victoria St. - is expected to begin approximately July 5. S 11th St Sidewalk - construction is expected to begin around July 18. Elm Street pedestrian bridge - plans are being finalized and construction easements are being sought. Ambler Ave. - water and sewer line replacements project should begin in late July or early October with road construction beginning sometime near the beginning of the new year.

7. Discussion and Review of Reports:

• Financial Status

Ms. Smetana noted that April 8, 2016 was the last billing submitted to TxDOT. From Oct 1, 2015 thru Sep 30, 2016 authorized funding was \$223,058.00. Expenditures to date have been \$146,202.04 leaving a remaining balance for the fiscal year of \$76,855.96.

Judge Spurgin asked about the indirect cost charged to the MPO and the findings on that. Ms. Messer discussed information related to that question.

• Operation Report

A Ride of Silence awareness event was on conducted on May 18, 2016. City of Abilene budget information for the revised 2016 budget and the proposed 2017 budget has been submitted. A Ride to Work event was conducted on June 20, 2016.

• Director's Report

Full Report is included in the packet.

– Board Training

Looking at a possible date of August 18, 2016 for a visioning, goal setting, and training session.

– Public Awareness Campaigns

The Ride of Silence event (May 18, 2016) had 57 rider participants and received media coverage from all three local TV stations with a live feed of the event.

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

Mayor Archibald stated that Mr. Mike Vandervoort has submitted a letter requesting evaluation of several intersections along Enterprise Dr., Bruce St., and Rebecca Ln. for accessibility purposes and transportation issues.

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

Councilman Bruce Kreitler thanked TxDOT for trash removal actions on Hwy 83/84. Judge Spurgin thanked TxDOT for new signs near the State Veterans Cemetery.

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

The board went into executive session at 2:26 pm in accordance with Local Government Code 551-071.

The Board returned from executive session at 3:06 pm with Mayor Archibald commending Ms. Smetana for her service.

11. Adjournment

The meeting of the MPO Policy Board was adjourned at 3:10 pm.