



MINUTES OF THE ABILENE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD December 17, 2024

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 17, 2024 in the City Council Chambers, Abilene City Hall, 555 Walnut St., Abilene, Texas.

Policy Board Members Present:

Judge Phil Crowley, Taylor County
Mayor Weldon Hurt, City of Abilene (Policy Board Vice-Chairman)
Councilman Shane Price, City of Abilene (Policy Board Chairman)
Judge Dale Spurgin, Jones County

Policy Board Members Absent:

Mr. Greg Cedillo, P.E., Interim TxDOT Abilene District Engineer

Staff of Member Agencies in Attendance:

Mr. Jeff Duebner, City of Abilene, Assistant Director Public Works
Mr. Michael Haithcock, P.E., TxDOT, Transportation Planning & Development Director
Mr. Richard Harbert, P.E., City of Abilene, Public Works, Professional Engineer I
Mr. Max Johnson, City of Abilene, Public Works Director
Ms. Kelley Messer, City of Abilene, First Assistant City Attorney
Ms. Jennifer Pacheco, City of Abilene, Stormwater Education and Keep Abilene Beautiful Coordinator
Ms. E'Lisa Smetana, Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization, Executive Director
Ms. Lauren Stevens, City of Abilene, CityLink, General Manager
Mr. Bryce Turentine, P.E., TxDOT Abilene Area Engineer

MPO Staff in Attendance:

Ms. Rita Ryan, Abilene MPO, Office Assistant III
Mr. Cory Harris, Abilene MPO, Transportation Planner I

Others in Attendance:

Mr. James Condry, Citizen
Mr. William Frawley, Consultant, Huitt Zollars
Mr. Dave Hogan, Citizen

1. Call to Order.

Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. He announced that public comments would be taken on any item on the agenda.

2. Consideration and Take Action on the Minutes of the October 15, 2024 meeting.

Judge Spurgin made a *motion* to *approve* the minutes of the October 15, 2024 meeting, with a *second* by Mayor Hurt. *Motion Carried (4-0).*

3. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on the FYs 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). (Presentation by Huitt-Zollars, Inc.)

Ms. Smetana provided a brief background of the FY 2025-2050 MTP. She noted we have been working with Huitt Zollars, hosted a number of public meetings, and the Draft MTP is currently out

for public review. Ms. Smetana advised this item does require a public hearing today for closure of the public involvement process. She stated all comments received during the twenty day review period have been previously shared with the Policy Board and a copy has been provided for them today.

Ms. Smetana stated the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) discussed each project listings contained on the: Funded On-System, Illustrative On-System, Off-System Projects, and Other during their November 19, 2024 meeting. She noted the Funded On-System and the Illustrative On-System projects were each ranked (individually) by the TAC and by the Decision Lens Software. Ms. Smetana stated the Draft MTP (full document) was provided to the TAC. A deadline of December 4, 2024 was assigned for any comments, recommendations or concerns by the TAC members to be given to the MPO staff. No comments were received. The TAC did not take action on the full document at the meeting.

Ms. Smetana stated the action requested of the Policy Board is: Any changes/recommendations; and approval of the FYs 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). She then turned over the floor to Mr. Frawley of Huitt Zollars.

Mr. Frawley began his presentation by explaining the steps taken in composing the plan. He noted the 3-C Process was followed: 1) Cooperative effort among all entities in the MTP Study Area, 2) Comprehensively addressed all modes, and 3) Continuous – met the adoption deadline. He spoke on the steps taken by his firm: 1) review of previous MTP, 2) taking all public comments, suggestions, and concerns under consideration, and 3) the creation of multiple drafts, reviews and edits.

Mr. Frawley took a moment to recognize and publically thank everyone who took the time to participate in the Delphi Meeting, the public meetings and/or in the public review. He singled out Mr. James Condry and thanked him for his knowledgeable submissions, detailed observations and suggestions.

Mr. Frawley continued his discussion of the chapters noting the procedures and rules that were followed. He spoke on Federal Requirements, Metropolitan Area Boundary (MAB), proposed MAB expansion request (which is awaiting the Governor's approval), Mobility Conditions, Public Involvement Process, Goals and Action Steps (Vision Statement), Environmental Justice and Land Use, Complete Street Assessment, Project Prioritization, and the Financial Plan and Project Lists.

Judge Crowley exited the meeting at 1:56 p.m. and re-entered the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Price asked about the Infrastructure Enhancements (construction, movement, and improvements). Mr. Frawley assured him it is being kept up-to-date.

Judge Crowley said if anyone had any concerns about Environmental Justice and Land Use that this is mostly Federal money that is funding these studies. Mr. Frawley confirmed yes it is primarily Federal dollars.

Judge Spurgin requested an explanation of communities outside of Abilene and the low vehicle availability. Mr. Frawley said that the percentages can be strewed by the geographical area, population, one vehicle households, and lower incomes.

Mr. Frawley discussed the TxDOT tool Decision Lens used for On-System projects only, its calculation criteria, and how it rates projects. He then spoke on local knowledge, funding

allotments, and how important it is to additionally have the TAC rate the projects; thereby utilizing fiscal constraints, meeting the MPO requirements, and the need for sequencing of projects in relation to other projects.

Judge Crowley spoke on a previous citizen's concern/comment about State Loop (SL) 322 and the access road, asking if this was being addressed in the MTP projects. Ms. Smetana said there were two projects pertaining to that and TxDOT was looking into those concerns.

Mr. Frawley spoke on the project listings and fiscal constraints before finishing his presentation.

Chairman Price asked if there were any further discussion before he opened the floor to public comments. Ms. Smetana noted the MPO would be addressing all of the comments received and sending them to the appropriate agencies. She stated the current packets contained most of the information but the final MTP document would include the comments without the personal information attached. Ms. Smetana stated there will be amendments made to the MTP in the future as necessary.

Chairman Price stated as previously noted today's meeting is the last opportunity for public comment for the MTP. He then opened a *Public Hearing Period. No comments were forthcoming.* Chairman Price closed the public hearing.

Mayor Hurt made a *motion to approve* the FYs 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan with a *second* by Judge Crowley. *Motion carried (4-0).*

4. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion, and Take Action on the 2025 meeting dates.

Chairman Price shared that Mr. Glenn Allbritton has been promoted to be the Houston District Engineer and is no longer in Abilene. He said Mr. Greg Cedillo has been appointed as the interim TxDOT District Engineer.

The Chairman then asked if there were any concerns with the proposed 2025 meeting dates. *No concerns were raised.*

5. Discussion and review of transportation projects. (TxDOT Staff, City Staff, CityLink Staff)

TxDOT – Mr. Turentine began his presentation with Planned Projects: **1)** SH 36 Widen Road, Add Lanes from CR 123 to FM 603; **2)** FM 1750 Intersection Improvements with Right or Left turn from Industrial Blvd. to 1200' south of Colony Hill Road; Project #3, #4 and #5 are the same project, **3)** SL 322 Intersection Improvement from North of SH 36 (BI 20) to FM 1750; **4)** SL 322 Bridge Replacement at Maple Street; **5)** SL 322 Preventive Maintenance from IH 20 to US 83; **6)** SH 36 Hazard Elimination and Safety at Maple Street; **7)** SH 36 Bicycle And Pedestrian Improvements from BU 83D to FM 1750; **8)** S 14TH ST Signal improvements from Sayles Blvd to BU 83D; **9)** FM 89 Widen Road add Lanes and Shoulders from FM 707 to Elm Creek; **10)** US 277 Resurface Roadway from FM 3438 to South end of BNSF Bridge; **11)** US 277 Resurface Roadway from US 83 to FM 3438; **12)** FM 3438 Bicycle And Pedestrian Improvements from Military Drive to US 277; **13)** FM 1235 Widen Road – Add Shoulders from CR 306 to CR 300; **14)** FM 3438 Install Illumination from IH 20 North Frontage Road to Near 5 Points Parkway; **15)** US 83 Hazard Elimination & Safety from 1300 feet north of Ambler Avenue to North 10th Street **16)** IH 20 Hazard Elimination & Safety at WB Entrance Ramp at Old Anson Road; **17)** IH 20 Hazard Elimination and Safety at Exit 285 east bound; **18)** Old Anson Road Construct Pedestrian Infrastructure from West Stamford Street to Ambler Avenue; **19)** BU 83D Intersection Improvement at Pine Street; **20)** IH 20

Widen Freeway from FM 600 to SH 351; and **2I)** FM 1082 Widen Road – add Shoulders from FM 1226 to FM 600.

Judge Spurgin asked if project #5 would alleviate the sound issue, Mr. Turentine stated it would explaining they would be using hot mix.

Mr. Turentine then addressed the Current Projects: **1)** FM 18 Rehabilitate Existing Roadway from SH 36 to Callahan County Line; **2)** SL 322 Install Intelligent Vehicle Highway system at various locations inside the Abilene MPO Boundary **3)** SL 322 Hazard Elimination & Safety from North 10th Street to Lytle Creek; **4)** US 83 Hazard Elimination & Safety from Bus. 83 Interchange to 1300' north of Ambler Avenue; **5)** US 83 Hazard Elimination & Safety from FM 707 to 0.25 mi north of FM 3034; **6)** FM 89 Widen Road - Add Lanes from near Bettes Lane to just north of US 83 **7)** South 14th Street Construct Pedestrian infrastructure from Pioneer Drive to Barrow Street; **8)** Bus 20 replace railroad crossings and signals at various locations; **9)** IH 20 Preventive Maintenance from Nolan County Line to near Wells Lane West Bound; **10)** US 83 Widen Road - Add Shoulders from Jones County Line to Taylor County Line; **11)** FM 3034 Widen Road - Add Shoulders from US 83 to FM 600; **12)** FM 1082 Construct New Road from West of Cheyenne Circle to East of Dam; **13)** FM 1082 Surfacing/Roadway Restoration from East of Dam to FM 3522; and **14)** SH 351 Preventive Maintenance from Abilene City Limits to Shackelford County.

City of Abilene – Public Works – Mr. Johnson began his presentation by discussing Current Projects: **1)** Honey Bee Re-alignment 95% complete; **2)** Maple (Carriage Hills to Loop 322) 84% complete; **3)** Five Points Roadway Improvements (Fulwiler Rd and Marigold St) 93% complete **4)** S 14th St Walkability Project (Sidewalks/Pedestrian Bridges) 88% complete; **5)** Festival District 83% complete; **6)** S 27th Signal Improvements (Treadaway to Catclaw) 16% complete; **7)** Cypress Street Reconstruction 45% complete; **8)** Antilley and Memorial Traffic Signal Improvements 16% complete; **9)** Work Zone S10A (West of Rose Park) 92% complete; **10)** N. 18th St. Grape to Mockingbird (includes N. 18th & Kirkwood intersection) 8% complete; **11)** S. 7th St. (Danville to Pioneer) Street 0% complete; and **12)** Corsicana Ave. (S. 7th to Benbrook) 0% complete.

Mr. Johnson spoke on the Projects Proposed for Construction: **1A)** Maple (S. 27th to ES 11th) 95% Designed, **1B)** Maple (Loop 322 to S. 27th) 95% Designed; **2)** S7th (Lytle Estates) 30% Designed; **3)** S10B (C.W. Gill Park) 30% Designed; **4)** Rebecca Ln. Phase I (Catclaw Dr. to Buffalo Gap Rd.) 30% Designed; **5)** S. 14th St. Phase II (Willis to Sayles) 30% Designed, **6)** N. 18th St. (Willis to Mockingbird) 30% Designed, **7)** Andy Street Culvert 50% Designed. **8)** Old Anson Road Walkability Project Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program 0% Designed; and **9)** Glen Abbey Storm Sewer Replacement Street Maintenance Fee/Stormwater 100% Designed.

Mr. Johnson introduced Mr. Richard Harbert to the Policy Board as the CoA Public Works newest Professional Engineer.

CityLink – Ms. Stevens discussed: 1) Employee restroom repairs and remodel project - noting they were still accepting bid and 2) Shop exhaust fans for the maintenance area - installation began on November 25, 2024 with an estimated project completion date of December 31, 2024.

6. Discussion and review of reports:

- **Financial Status** – Ms. Smetana discussed the FY 2024 (October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024) Authorizations, Expenditures and Balance. She noted the report was included in the packet. She called attention to the deficit of \$37,086.11 and the receipt of the Carryover funding for FY 2023 received on December 6, 2024 in the amount of \$351,472.60 with the fiscal year

ending with \$314,386.49. She stated that we have not yet received our first funding allocation for the FY 2025 budget that started on October 1, 2024.

- **Operation Report** – Ms. Smetana provided highlights/summary of the Operations Report and noted the full document is included in the packet.
 - **Director's Report**
 - **Work Tasks**
 - **MPO Staffing** – Ms. Smetana noted the position of Transportation Planner was filled on November 4, 2024 by Mr. Cory Harris.
 - **MPO Planning Area Boundary Update** – Ms. Smetana shared that we were notified on October 3, 2024 that TxDOT has submitted the boundary expansion request to the Governor's Office and they are in the process of reviewing the submittal and providing the final sign-off. On November 20, 2024, TxDOT informed us that the Governor's legal staff is reviewing and we should know something shortly on the approval.
 - **Year-end Reports – FY 2024 Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER), and FY 2023 and FY 2024 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP)** – Ms. Smetana noted that each year the Annual Performance & Expenditure Report (APER) and the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP) are due by December 31st to FHWA and FTA to ensure compliance. TxDOT requests that the reports be given to them by December 15th to allow time for their review. MPO staff is working on the submittal of the APER by the deadline. We are still waiting on TxDOT for the highway data for the FY 2023 report that was due on December 15, 2023 and the FY 2024 report that is due on December 15, 2024. Per an email from TxDOT dated November 13, 2024, they are finalizing the FY 2022 reports and should be sending the FY 2023 and FY 2024 data out soon.
7. **Opportunity for members of the Public to make comments on MPO issues.**
No comments forthcoming.
 8. **Opportunity for Board Members, Technical Advisory Committee Members, or MPO Staff to recommend topics for future discussion or action.**
No comments forthcoming.
 9. **Adjournment.**
Chairman Price thanked all in attendance and stated the next meeting would be February 18, 2025. Chairman Price *adjoined* the meeting at *2:58 p.m.*