



MINUTES OF THE ABILENE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD April 15, 2025

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 15, 2025, in the City Council Chambers, Abilene City Hall, 555 Walnut St., Abilene Texas.

Policy Board Members Present:

Judge Phil Crowley, Taylor County (*out @ 1:51 p.m. in @ 1:56 p.m. Item #9*)
 Mr. Jeremy Dearing, TxDOT District Engineer
 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:

N/A

Staff of Member Agencies in Attendance:

Mr. Billy Dezern, TxDOT, Advanced Planning Manager/GIS Coordinator
 Ms. Nellie Doneva, City of Abilene, Videographer
 Mr. Richard Harbert, P.E., City of Abilene, Professional Engineer
 Ms. Max Johnson, City of Abilene, Director of Public Works
 Ms. Julie Johncox, DCOA, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer
 Ms. Jennifer Paneco, City of Abilene, Communications, Coordinator Storm Water Education, Keep Abilene Beautiful
 Mr. Michael Rice, P.E., City of Abilene, Assistant City Manager
 Ms. Mason Teagardin, City of Abilene, Planning Division Manager
 Mr. Bryce Turentine, P.E., TxDOT Abilene Area Engineer

MPO Staff in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

Mr. James Condry, Citizen

1. Call to Order.

Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. He stated public comments would be accepted on all agenda items, he noted three items on the agenda call for Public Hearing.

2. Consideration and Take Action, on the Minutes of the February 18, 2025, meeting.

Judge Crowley made a *motion* to *approve* the minutes of the February 18, 2025 meeting with two noted typo corrections, with a *second* by Judge Spurgin. *Motion Carried (5-0).*

3. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on an amendment to the FYs 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Ms. Smetana stated the amendment for the FYs 2025-2028 TIP was available in the packet. She stated there are a couple of projects that need to be amended so they match TxDOT Connect. She said this is out for public review. Ms. Smetana identified the details of the TIP amendment: Cover Page – updated the date; Table of Contents;

Highway Project Pages; Transit Project Pages; Financial Summary for Highway and Transit; History of TIP and TIP Amendments; and Appendix D: PM 1 and Projects; PM 2 and Projects; PM 3 Projects Only.

Ms. Smetana turned the floor over to Mr. Harris to present the Highway Projects. He noted the items in the red are the updates and changes that were made to sync up with TxDOT Connect. Mr. Harris discussed each of the Highway Project changes and then finished his presentation.

Ms. Smetana identified the changes to the Transit Projects. She stated the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended approval during their March 18, 2025, meeting. Ms. Smetana ended her presentation.

Chairman Price opened a Public Hearing. No comments were received. Chairman Price requested a motion from the Policy Board.

Mayor Hurt made a *motion* to *approve* the amendment to the FYs 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), with a *second* by Mr. Dearing. *Motion Carried (5-0)*.

4. Receive a Report; Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing; and Take Action on the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects.

Ms. Smetana said included in the packet is a copy of the FY 2023 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP). She said this was due on December 15, 2023, but we received the data enabling us to do this report on February 28, 2025. Ms. Smetana stated we have a due date of March 28, 2025, we did submit a draft document to TxDOT on that date. The report was out for public review with a deadline of April 14, 2025, we did not receive any comments but noted we will also be accepting comments during today's meeting and any comments received will be added to the report.

Ms. Smetana discussed the Summary of Projects: The total amount of federal funds obligated in Fiscal Year 2023 were \$4,791,009 for highway projects; \$23,030,435 for grouped projects; \$1,402,722 for bicycle projects; and \$3,732,811 for transit projects; for a total of obligated federal funds of \$32,956,977. She then discussed the projects obligated in the Abilene Metropolitan Planning area. Ms. Smetana noted we had one highway project; seven grouped projects; one bicycle project. She then proceeded to discuss the transit projects and noted that transit has a remaining fund balance available for subsequent years of \$1,051,832.

Ms. Smetana explained that due to the timeline TxDOT imposed we were unable to submit this to TAC for a recommendation. She ended her presentation and offered to answer any questions.

Chairman Price opened a Public Hearing. No comments were received. Chairman Price requested a motion from the Policy Board.

Mr. Dearing made a *motion* to *approve* the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects, with a *second* by Judge Crowley. *Motion Carried (5-0)*.

5. Receive a Report; Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing; and Take Action on the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects.

Ms. Smetana said included in the packet is a copy of the FY 2024 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects. She noted this was due on December 15, 2024, but we received the data enabling us to do this report on March 3, 2025, with a due date of April 4, 2025. We submitted a draft document to TxDOT on March 28, 2025.

Ms. Smetana stated the report was out for public review with a deadline of April 14, 2025, she noted that we did not receive any comments but noted we will also be accepting comments during today's meeting and any comments received will be added to the report.

Ms. Smetana discussed the summary of projects: \$23,773,487 for highway projects; \$2,544,233 for grouped projects; \$0 for bicycle projects; and \$751,788 for transit projects. The total obligated funds for FY 2024 are \$27,069,508.

Ms. Smetana provided a breakdown of the projects: one highway project, three group projects, zero bicycle projects. She spoke on the nine transit projects: \$3,695,611 programmed funds; \$751,788 obligated funds; and the remaining funds are \$3,240,268.

Ms. Smetana explained that due to the timeline TxDOT imposed we were unable to submit this to TAC for a recommendation. She ended her presentation and offered to answer any questions

Chairman Price opened a Public Hearing. No comments were received. Chairman Price requested a motion from the Policy Board.

Judge Spurgin made a *motion* to *approve* the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects, with a *second* by Mayor Hurt. *Motion Carried (5-0)*.

6. Receive a Report; Hold a Discussion; and Take Action on an amendment to the FYs 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Ms. Smetana noted the Unified Planning Work Program needs to be amended to incorporate the following changes: (Cover Page - date changed; Table of Contents; Subtask 3.3 – funding changed; Subtask 4.1 – funding changed; Subtask 4.3 – funding changed; Subtask 5.4 – funding changed; Subtask 5.6 – new subtask added; PB and TAC membership – updated; Boundary map – updated with 2020 Census and Amendments page – updated.

Ms. Smetana discussed each of the changes and spoke in detail about the addition of Subtask 5.6: Increasing Safe and Accessible Transportation Options. She noted the MPO along with the help of a consultant will develop a plan to ensure the safe and adequate accommodation of all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, children, older individuals, individuals with disabilities, motorists, and freight vehicles (Section 11206(b) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act). Funding includes 2.5 percent of the amounts made available to the MPO under section 104(d) of Title 23, United States Code.

Ms. Smetana shared that the MPO is hoping to utilize the funds from Subtask 5.6 by hiring a consultant for some of the following recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Board at previous meetings: Corridor Planning- FM 89 going towards Buffalo Gap; Loop 322 extension from I20 to SH 351 to US 83; and Oldham Lane from East South 11th Street to FM 707; Freight Planning- Treadaway Blvd. Corridor; and East Highway 80 Corridor; and General Planning- Consolidate Title VI & Americans with Disabilities Act – ADA & Public Participation Plans (Airport (driven by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)), City of Abilene (under development Human Resources (HR)), CityLink (driven by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)), and other entities.

Ms. Smetana discussed the Budget Summary noting changes are in yellow. She noted the TAC at their March 18, 2025, meeting recommended approval. Ms. Smetana ended her presentation and offered to answer any questions.

Mayor Hurt made a *motion* to *approve* DRAFT FYs 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), with a *second* by Mr. Dearing. *Motion Carried (5-0)*.

7. Receive a Report; Hold a Discussion; and Take Action on the DRAFT FYs 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Ms. Smetana noted this is the MPO budget report that will take effect in October 2025. She explained this is a new format, TxDOT submitted a revised UPWP template on February 7, 2025 that we are required to follow for approval. The draft UPWP is due to TxDOT on May 1, 2025, with the final to be submitted by July 15, 2025. On April 7, staff received a TXDOT Checklist for the UPWP. MPO Staff has been working on confirming compliance with the checklist. Ms. Smetana noted what the TAC reviewed is slightly different than today's version as we had to make revisions to meet the changes given to us by TxDOT on April 7, 2025.

Ms. Smetana discussed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Nov. 15, 2021), Set-aside for Increasing Safe and Accessible Transportation Options. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) requires each MPO to use at least 2.5% of its Planning (PL) funds for safety.

Ms. Smetana discussed the FY 2026-2027 UPWP, she noted in the definition of area we included information about our new boundary (awaiting approval in Governor Abbott's office) as we are hopeful of a positive decision by October 2025. She referred to the link under Planning Issues and Emphasis stating that it was updated by TxDOT to a working link. Ms. Smetana stated the items highlighted in yellow are the changes made due to the TxDOT April 7, 2025, checklist. She discussed in detail each of the yellow highlighted items, noting: Subtask 5.4: Microtransit Services Study that CityLink staff with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding will complete. A consulting firm will conduct a strategic evaluation of fixed routes to Microtransit system conversion. Ms. Smetana noted that Subtasks 1.3, 2.5, 3.4, 4.2, and 5.4 will be utilizing CityLink Transit Funds.

Ms. Smetana spoke on the Budget Summary prior to ending her presentation. She said the TAC recommended approval at their March 18, 2025, meeting. She opened the floor to questions.

Mr. Dearing asked Ms. Smetana about Task 5, he inquired where the MPO was in the process of obtaining a consultant. Ms. Smetana asked for clarification that Mr. Dearing was referring to Task 5.3 the Safety Action Plan, Mr. Dearing stated he was. She replied that it is through TxDOT as they already have a consultant hired. Ms. Smetana said TxDOT submitted a preliminary draft in 2024 and is currently still working on it with the hopes of completing it soon. Mr. Dearing asked about the Task 5.2 the Resiliency Plan. Ms. Smetana stated we have not yet started the Resiliency Plan; we are required to obtain bids before hiring a consultant.

Judge Spurgin made a *motion* to *approve* the DRAFT FYs 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), with a *second* by Mayor Hurt. *Motion Carried (5-0)*.

8. Receive a Report; Hold a Discussion; and Take Action on the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER).

Ms. Smetana stated the APER was submitted to TxDOT on Monday, December 16, 2024. TxDOT submitted the report to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on February 7, 2025, with a recommendation of acceptance. We received notification on February 13, 2025, that FHWA had a couple of comments on the submitted FY 2024 APER along with a thank you for a well-done FY 2024 APER. Those comments were addressed by the MPO on February 13, 2025. We received acknowledgement on February 18, 2025, that FHWA did not have any additional comments on the document. On February 19, 2025, we received acknowledgement from Federal Transit Administration (FTA) that they did not have any comments but stated that the report was very detailed and great job on using the FTA planning funding. Ms. Smetana stated that with acknowledgements from TxDOT, FHWA, and FTA the report is now ready for publication. Prior to this acknowledgement we were unable to share this report Per 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 420.117, reports that document the results of activities performed with FHWA planning and research funds must be prepared by the State DOT or subrecipient and submitted for approval by the FHWA Division Administrator prior to publication.

Ms. Smetana discussed the report in detail, highlighting some items that the MPO organized, participated in or partnered with other community entities: Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee Workshop, MPO Newsletter (Abilene MPO Insider), Facebook and X (Twitter) accounts used to share public participation; Ride of Silence; Ride to Work; TxDOT Work Zone Safety; and Car Seat Checkup; Abilene MPO Travel Demand Model which was presented by TxDOT at the MPO PB/TAC Workshop; Carbon Reduction Program Closed-Circuit Cameras and Dynamic Message Signs; Carbon Reduction Project Proposal Shared Path on Dub Wright Blvd. (FM 3438) from US 277 to IH 20 (multiple phases).

Ms. Smetana discussed the Transportation Alternatives Program Projects that we assisted the City of Abilene submit grant requests for totaling an overall project cost of \$7,475,112.

Ms. Smetana discussed the Budget Summary and noted this report was not presented to the TAC before ending her presentation.

Mr. Dearing made a *motion* to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER), with a *second* by Judge Crowley. *Motion Carried (5-0).*

9. Discussion and review of transportation projects.

(TxDOT, Staff, City Staff, City Link Staff)

TxDOT - Mr. Turentine discussed the construction 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; 3) SL 322 Hazard Elimination and Safety from Lytle Creek to US 83; 4) US 83 Hazard Elimination and Safety from Lytle Creek to US 83; 5) SL 322 Hazard and Safety Elimination from North 10 Street to Lytle Creek; 6) FM 89 Widen Road - Add Lanes from Rebecca Lane to just north of US 83; 7) Business 20 Replacing the Rail Crossings and Signal at Various locations; 8) US 83 Widen Road - Add Shoulders from 1.0 miles north of FM 3034 to Taylor County Line; 9) FM 3034 Widen Road - Add Shoulders from near PR 343 to FM 600; 10) FM 1082 Construct New Road from west of Cheyenne Circle to east of Dam; 11) FM 1082 Surfacing - Roadway Restoration from east of the dam to FM 3522 and 12) SH 351 Preventive Maintenance from Abilene City Limits to Callahan County Line.

Mr. Turentine discussed Planned Projects: 1) FM 1235 Widen Road -Add Shoulder from CR .306 to CR 300; 2) US 83 Hazard Elimination and Safety from 1300 feet north of Ambler Avenue to North 10th Street; 3) SH 36 Widen Road – Add Lanes from CR 123 to Callahan County; 4) South 14th Street Traffic Signal Improvements at Sayles Blvd.; 5) SH 36 Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements from BU 83D to FM 1750; 6) Old Anson Road Construct Pedestrian Infrastructure from West Stamford Street to Amber Blvd.; 7) FM 3438 Install Illumination from IH 20 North Frontage Road to near 5 Points Parkway; 8) US 277 Resurface Roadway from US 83 to FM 3438; 9) FM 89 Widen Road – Add Lanes and Shoulders from Elm Creek to FM 707; 10) IH 20 Widen Freeway from FM 600 to SH 351; 11) FM 1750 Intersection Improvements from Industrial Blvd. to 1200' south of Colony Hill Road; 12) FM 3438 Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements from Military Drive to US 277; 13) FM 1082 Widen Road – Add Shoulders from FM 1226 to FM 600; 14) SH 36 Hazard Elimination and Safety at Maple Street; 15) South 14th Street Signal Improvements, LEDs and GPS Clocks from South Clack Street to South Treadaway Blvd.; 16) South 7th Street Signal Improvements, LEDs and GPS Clocks at Barrow Intersection; 17) US 277 Resurface Roadway from FM 3438 to South End of BNSF Bridge; 18) SL 322 Preventive Maintenance from IH 20 to US 83; 19) IH 20 Hazard Elimination and Safety at West Bound Entrance Ramp Old Anson Road; 20) BU 83D Intersection Improvement at Pine Street; and 21) SL 322 Intersection Improvement from North of SH 36 (BI 20) to FM 1750.

City of Abilene - Mr. Harbert discussed Projects Under Construction: *1)* Maple (Carriage Hills to Loop 322) stating the project is 94% complete (a month or so left to completion); *2)* Five Points Roadway improvements (Fulwiler Road to Marigold Street) is at the punch list stage and 93% complete; *3)* South 14th Street Walkability Project is 100% complete; *4)* South 27th Street Signal Improvements (Treadaway Blvd. to Catclaw Drive) is 20% complete; *5)* Cypress Street Reconstruction is 50% complete and sidewalks are being addressed; *6)* Antilley Road and Memorial Drive Traffic Signal Improvements is complete; *7)* North 18th Street (Grape Street to Mockingbird Lane, including North 18th Street and Kirkwood intersection) is 20% complete; *8)* South 7th Street (Danville Drive to Pioneer Drive) is 0% complete; *9)* Glen Abbey Storm Sewer Replacement the streets are now open and project should be completed soon.

Mr. Harbert discussed Project in Design: *1A)* Maple Street (South 27th Street to East South 11th Street is 90% designed; *1B)* Maple Street (SL 322 to South 27th Street) is 95% designed; *2)* South 7th Street (Lytle Estates) is 40% designed; *3)* S10B (C.W. Gill Park is 30% designed; *4)* Rebecca Lane Phase I (Catclaw Drive to Buffalo Gap Road) is 30% designed, bid went out today so we will be moving that up to construction; *5)* South 14th Street Phase II (Willis Street to Sayles Blvd.) is 40% designed; *6)* North 18th Street (Willis Street to Mockingbird Lane) is 40% designed; *7)* Andy Street Culvert is 50% designed; *8)* Old Anson Road Walkability Project is 10% designed, 30% general layout, working on easements.

CityLink – Ms. Smetana discussed the employee restroom repairs and remodel project: 1) Two of the three employee restrooms have been completed; 2) One item remains on the third restroom. The Strategic Study for Micro transit conversion of the Fixed Route system; CityLink received the first of 5 Tech Memos at the end of February.

10. Discussion and review of reports:

- **Financial Status** – Ms. Smetana discussed our funding noting we have not received our outstanding carryover. She noted that we have authorization for funds of \$375,000 with expenditures of \$155,122.57 and a remaining balance of \$219,877.43. She said that the outstanding carryover is \$314,386.49.
- **Operation Report**
Ms. Smetana spoke on some of the highlights from the Operation Report that ran from February 11, 2025, through April 8, 2025. She stated that the full report was included in the packet.
- **Director's Report**
 - **Work Tasks**
 - **MPO Planning Area Boundary Expansion Update**
Ms. Smetana explained that as of March 12, 2025, TxDOT informed us that the Governor's office is still evaluating the boundary submittal.
 - **TxDOT/MPO/COA Planning Agreement**
Ms. Smetana talked about the current planning agreement and the new updated version that TxDOT sent out on March 7, 2025. The deadline for all agreements to be fully executed is August 31, 2025 for a five-year agreement ending on August 31, 2030. She said that once we receive the final template on April 15, we will work through the process of getting it to the Policy Board at the June 17th meeting.

11. Opportunity for members of the Public to make comments on MPO issues.

No comments forthcoming.

12. Opportunity for Board Members, Technical Advisory Committee Members, or MPO Staff to recommend topics for future discussion or action.

No comments forthcoming.

13. Adjournment

Chairman Price **adjourned** the meeting at **2:17 p.m.**