



MINUTES OF THE ABILENE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD February 18, 2025

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 18, 2025 in the City Council Chambers, Abilene City Hall, 555 Walnut St., Abilene, Texas.

Policy Board Members Present:

Judge Phil Crowley, Taylor County (*in @ 1:35 pm – start of Agenda Item #5*)

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

Ms. Nellie Doneva, City of Abilene, Videographer

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, Storm water Education and Keep Abilene Beautiful Coordinator

Mr. Michael Rice, City of Abilene, Assistant City Manager

Ms. Randee Shields, P.E., TxDOT, Director of Transportation Operations

Ms. Lauren Stevens, City of Abilene, CityLink, General Manager

Mr. Bryce Turentine, P.E., TxDOT Abilene Area Engineer

MPO Staff in Attendance:

Mr. Cory Harris, Abilene MPO, Transportation Planner I

Ms. Rita Ryan, Abilene MPO, Office Assistant III

Ms. E'Lisa Smetana, Abilene MPO, Executive Director

Others in Attendance:

Mr. James Condry, Citizen

1. Call to Order.

Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 1:30 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 December 17, 2024 meeting.

Judge Spurgin made a *motion* to *approve* the minutes of the December 17, 2024 meeting, with a *second* by Mayor Hurt. *Motion Carried (3-0).*

3. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on the FY 2025 Safety Performance Measure (PM 1).

Ms. Smetana noted the full report is available in the packet. This report is due 180 days after TxDOT adopted their targets, and is due February 26, 2025. She noted the full report is available in the packet. She noted the information in the report was provided by TxDOT. Ms. Smetana pointed out that TxDOT is using the same performance measures they utilized in FY 2024 for FY 2025.

Ms. Smetana spoke on the 2025 Targets from Trendlines, advising these are the numbers contained in the resolution. She addressed the 2025 Target totals and percentages for: Fatalities; Fatality Rate per 100 MVMT (Million Vehicle Miles Traveled); Serious Injuries; Serious Injury Rate per 100 MVMT; and Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries. She discussed the resolution and the five safety performance measures established by TxDOT including the modified numbers from the trendlines that is pending on a request submitted by TxDOT to FHWA. She reiterated that the resolution includes both the 2025 information and the pending request of the trendlines numbers.

Ms. Smetana stated that during the January 28, 2025 TAC meeting, the TAC recommended approval to the Policy Board of the resolution for the FY 2025 Highway Safety Improvement Program Performance Measure (PM 1) as presented.

Ms. Smetana said the action requested is: 1) Any changes/recommendations and 2) Approval of the resolution for the FY 2025 Highway Safety Improvement Program Performance Measure (PM 1).

Mayor Hurt made a *motion* to *approve* the FY 2025 Safety Performance Measure (PM 1), with a *second* by Judge Spurgin. *Motion Carried (3-0)*.

4. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion, and Take Action on the FY 2024 Pavement and Bridge Performance Measures (PM 2).

Ms. Smetana explained this agenda item also includes a resolution. This resolution pertains to the FY 2024 Pavement and Bridge Performance Measures (PM 2). The report is done on a two year basis. She said the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved TxDOT's Mid Performance Period (MPP) Progress Report.

Ms. Smetana said the only difference from the previous Policy Board approved resolution is the one change TxDOT made to the PM-2 targets: increasing the Percentage of Pavements of the Non-Interstate NHS in Poor Condition 4-year target from 1.5% to 2.5%. She stated the MPOs may adopt and support the State's updated PM-2 target or develop their own in coordination with TxDOT. The MPOs have until March 30, 2025 to adopt an updated PM-2 target. Ms. Smetana discussed the effect of the change and the various other performance measure criteria on the Summary of Performance Measures and Targets.

Ms. Smetana stated that during the January 28, 2025 TAC meeting, the TAC recommended approval to the Policy Board of the resolution for the Pavement and Bridge Performance Measure (PM 2) as presented.

Ms. Smetana said the action requested is: 1) Any changes/recommendations and 2) Approval of the resolution for the Pavement and Bridge Performance Measure (PM 2) as presented.

Judge Spurgin made a *motion* to *approve* the FY 2024 Pavement and Bridge Performance Measures (PM 2), with a *second* by Mayor Hurt. *Motion Carried (3-0)*.

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

TxDOT – Mr. Turentine discussed Current Construction: *1)* FM 18 Rehabilitate Existing Roadway from SH 36 to Callahan County Line, overlay projects at various locations and he noted he was happy to share that they have finished the paving on FM 2833 (East Lake Road); *2)* SL 322 Install Intelligent Vehicle Highway System at various locations inside the Abilene MPO Boundary, project has let and should begin in March when the ordered materials are scheduled to be delivered; Projects *3)* and *4)* are the same project - Hazard Elimination & Safety project (median barrier) *3)* SL 322 from North 10th Street to Lytle Creek; *4)* Us 83 from Business 83 Interchange to 1300' north of Ambler Road. Mr. Turentine stated the Winters Freeway portion is complete with only one rung to

be completed in the north bound direction; **5)** FM 89 Widen Road - Add Lanes from near Bettes Lane to just north of US 83 – (Buffalo Gap Road) – all the lanes have been opened but there is still some miscellaneous work to do which is dependent upon some seasonal temperatures; **6)** South 14th Street - Construct Pedestrian infrastructure from Pioneer Drive to Barrow Street, the job is closing out; **7)** Bus 20 replace railroad crossings and signals at various locations, going slower than we would like; **8)** US 83 Widen Road - Add Shoulders from Jones County Line to Taylor County Line; and **9)** FM 3034 Widen Road - Add Shoulders from US 83 to FM 600, - both project 8 and 9 have started and they are working on a detour currently and the widening of FM 3034; **10)** FM 1082 Construct New Road from West of Cheyenne Circle to East of Dam, the work is complete except for some punch list items; **11)** FM 1082 Surfacing/Road Restoration from East of Dam to FM 3522, currently working on the spillway; **12)** SH 351 Preventive Maintenance from Abilene City Limits to Shackelford County, the project has let but not yet begun.

Mr. Turentine began with stating that the Planned Projects were the same as his last presentation to the board and asked if they would like him to go through those again or if there were any questions.

Chairman Price asked the board if they want Mr. Turentine to go through the projects or if there were any questions. The Policy Board members each answered no and no questions.

City of Abilene – Public Works – Mr. Harbert began his presentation with Projects under Construction: **1)** Maple Street from Carriage Hills to Loop 322, 94% complete, estimated completion one month; **2)** Five Points Roadway Improvements, Fulwiler Road and Marigold Street, 93% complete, we are on the punch list; **3)** South 14th Street Walkability Project (Sidewalks/Pedestrian Bridges), 100% complete, we have passed the inspection and just have a few closeout documents with TxDOT; **4)** South 27th Signal Improvements from Treadaway Blvd. to Catclaw Drive, 20% complete, beginning phase; **5)** Cypress Street Reconstruction, 50% complete, currently working on North 3rd Street, utility improvements; **6)** Antilley Road and Memorial drive, Traffic Signal Improvements, 30% complete, signal poles are in place and wired; **7)** North 18th St. from Grape Street to Mockingbird Lane (Includes North 18th Street & Kirkwood Street intersection), 20% complete, the Kirkwood intersection has been completed; **8)** South 7th Street from Danville Drive to Pioneer Street, 0% complete, tentatively scheduled to start in March 2025; **9)** Glen Abbey Storm Sewer Replacement, the pipe has been placed in the ground and covered.

Mr. Harbert discussed the Projects in Design: **1A)** Maple Street from South 27th Street to East-South 11th Street, 95% Designed; **1B)** Maple Street from Loop 322 to South 27th Street, 95% Designed; **2)** South 7th Street at Lytle Estates, 40% Designed; **3)** S10B (C.W. Gill Park), 30% Designed; **4)** Rebecca Lane, Phase I, from Catclaw Drive to Buffalo Gap Road, 30% Designed; **5)** South 14th Street, Phase II, from Willis Street to Sayles Blvd., 40% Designed; **6)** North 18th Street from Willis Street to Mockingbird Lane, 40% Designed; **7)** Andy Street, Culvert, 50% Designed; **8)** Old Anson Road, Walkability Project, 10% to 30% Designed.

CityLink – Ms. Steven provided an update on the following items: **Employee restroom repairs and remodel project**: three employee restrooms in different stages: 1st restroom – finishing touches, project, 100% complete; 2nd restroom – 60%, now 90% complete; and 3rd restroom – pending start date upon completion of 1st & 2nd restroom, scheduled to start tomorrow, February 19, 2025 (supplies have been delayed). **Shop exhaust fans**: 90%, now 100% complete, no more fumes inside the building. **Strategic Study for Micro transit conversion of the Fixed Route system**: The consultant, KFH Group; 1st request for data December 2024; and 1st On-Site visit – gather more data, January 29th & 30th.

Chairman Price asked if there was an expected timeline. Ms. Stevens said she believes we will receive a rough draft in March or April 2025, noting consultants do have until August 2025 to provide the rough draft.

Chairman Price asked if CityLink had any issues with drivers. Ms. Stevens stated there is always an issue with drivers. Chairman Price asked if that was impacting the Micro Transit or the regular fixed transit. Ms. Stevens shared that we have everything covered except for the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Service. She said the ADA service has been hindered and CityLink recently put a temporary hold on all BA2 (Extended Service Area – Buffer Area 2) service with the exception of medical and dialysis. Ms. Stevens said they do currently have five people in training specifically for the ADA department and we have one more behind the wheel who started yesterday. She acknowledged it is a challenge to get people to apply, pass background checks and pass the drug test. Chairman Price stated it was good to hear that we do have some in training.

6. Discussion and review of reports:

- **Financial Status** – Ms. Smetana stated the report is available in the packet. She referred to the FY 2024 Budget Information – Carryover FY 2024 of \$314,386.49 and noted this has not yet been received. She stated that for FY 2025 we have received Work Order #1 for \$107,627.11 on 01/23/2025. We have since received three Billings for October 2024 - \$10,938.31, November 2024 - \$65,483.95, and December 2024 – \$27,302.31 for a total expenditure of \$103,724.57 which leaves us with a remaining balance of \$3,902.54. Ms. Smetana noted we are eagerly awaiting our next authorization so we do not fall back into the red. She said TxDOT has assured us to just submit the bills and they will take care of them.
- **Operation Report** - Ms. Smetana spoke on some of the highlights of the Operation Report from December 11, 2024 through February 10, 2025 and noted the complete report is available in the packet.
 - Reports and Plans: Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and FY 2024 Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER). Training Sessions: Numerous planning training sessions in person and online GIS training classes.
- **Director's Report -**
 - **Work Tasks**
 - **MPO Planning Area Boundary Update:** On November 20, 2024, TxDOT informed us that the Governor's legal staff is reviewing and we should know something shortly on the approval. On January 7, 2025, the latest update is that the Governor's office had some questions about the Texas Administrative Code and the United States Code references in the documents. Those responses were given to them on December 23, 2024 by TxDOT and they acknowledged receipt of that information but did not provide any additional information on a timeframe for completion.
 - **Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update:** The Policy Board at their December 17, 2024 meeting approved the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). After information was added about the public participation process, the consultants submitted the final plan to the MPO on December 20, 2024. This was then submitted to TxDOT on January 9, 2025. We are waiting for acknowledgement from TxDOT, FHWA, and FTA on the document.
 - **FYs 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update:** On December 18, 2024 we received notification that FHWA placed exceptions on some of the projects so those were not approved. MPO staff was waiting on the final MTP so that the exceptions could be lifted. On January 16, 2025 the final MTP was uploaded into the STIP portal, FHWA reviewed the information, and the exceptions were lifted from all projects.

- **ADA and Title VI Plans:** On December 19, 2024, the MPO staff had a webinar with TxDOT on Title VI plans. On December 20, 2024 a follow-up meeting pertaining to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was set-up by TxDOT. The consensus from these two webinars were that the MPO's Title VI Plan needed to be updated and we needed to create an ADA plan. Staff will be working on these two items in the future.

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

No comments.

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

No comments.

9. Adjournment.

Chairman Price thanked all in attendance and said the next meeting would be on April 15, 2025.

Chairman Price *adjoined* the meeting at *1:54 p.m.*