



MINUTES OF THE ABILENE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

April 17, 2018

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 17, 2018, in the City Council Chambers, Abilene City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, Texas.

Members Present:

Councilman Bruce Kreitler, City of Abilene and Policy Board Chairman
Judge Downing Bolls, Taylor County and Policy Board Vice-Chairman
Mr. Carl Johnson, P.E., TxDOT Abilene District Engineer
Judge Dale Spurgin, Jones County
Mayor Anthony Williams, City of Abilene

Staff of Member Agencies in Attendance:

Mr. Casey McGee, TxDOT Abilene Area Engineer
Mr. Michael Haithcock, TxDOT Abilene District TP&D Director
Ms. Kelley Messer, City of Abilene First Assistant City Attorney
Mr. Andy Anderson, City of Abilene Interim Public Works Director
Mr. Larry Wright, City of Abilene City Engineer
Mr. James Rogge, City of Abilene Traffic Engineer
Ms. Linda Lockhart, CityLink General Manager

MPO Staff in Attendance:

Ms. E'Lisa Smetana, Abilene MPO Executive Director
Mr. Ed McRoy, Abilene MPO Transportation Planner II

1. Call to Order.

Chairman Kreitler called the meeting of the Abilene MPO Policy Board to order at 1:30 p.m. noting the presence of a quorum.

2. Consideration and possible action on the minutes of the January 11, 2018 Workshop and the February 20, 2018 meeting.

Judge Bolls made a **motion** to approve the minutes as presented, with a **second** by Judge Spurgin. *Motion carried (5-0).*

Chairman Kreitler requested that any member of the public who desired to comment on any item appearing on the agenda identify themselves and the item or items they wished to address. He noted that a public hearing would be called on any such item identified. *Hearing none he proceeded with the meeting.*

3. Public hearing, discussion and possible action on a FINAL FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Ms. Smetana explained that the FYs 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program or TIP is a federally required four-year plan including both transit and highway projects. She noted that the TIP needs final approval by June 18, 2018 so projects can be entered into the Statewide ESTIP. A public comment period was open from February 20 to March 12 with two public meetings conducted. No comments were received. On April 10, TxDOT sent an email listing changes needed to the Self

Certification Template. Ms. Smetana noted that the changes relate to the notation of regulations. MPO staff, she explained, had therefore made these changes administratively.

Chairman Kreitler expressed a desire to obtain more public input. He suggested staff explore new ways to obtain this in the future. Judge Spurgin asked about the advertisement used. Ms. Smetana replied noting the newspaper advertisements, meeting postings, and website notices used. She then provided a detailed explanation of each change made from the Draft to the Final document.

Chairman Kreitler **opened the public hearing**, inviting anyone who wished to speak on the matter to address the Board. Seeing none, he **closed the public hearing**.

Mayor Williams made a **motion** to approve the Final FY 2019-2022 TIP as proposed with a **second** by Chairman Kreitler. *Motion carried (5-0)*.

4. Discussion and possible action on an amendment to the Public Participation Plan (Final reading).

Ms. Smetana explained that the FAST Act requires some modifications to the current Public Participation Plan (PPP). She noted that a 45-day period for public review and comment was conducted from February 20 thru April 6 as required. Two public meetings were held on February 20, 2018 and March 6, 2018. No comments were received.

She provided a detailed explanation of changes from the Draft to the Final document. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed the document on January 30, 2018 recommending no changes.

Judge Spurgin made a **motion** to approve the Plan as presented with a **second** by Mr. Johnson. *Motion carried (5-0)*.

5. Discussion, and possible action on a Memorandum of Understanding between TxDOT, the City of Abilene and the MPO.

Ms. Smetana explained that this document is required by the FAST Act and must be established by May 27, 2018. She noted that the most important parts can be found on Page 2 which lists the responsibilities of all parties and on Page 4 which lists the responsibilities of the MPO. Judge Spurgin asked if the MOU was limited to only public transportation. Mrs. Smetana responded that this agreement is related to performance measures so it is broad in scope but it codifies existing practices. She noted that changes to the document, particularly to the appendices, might be needed as the State continues to adopt performance measures.

Judge Spurgin asked about the extent of the agreement, asked if it was limited to just transit-related performance measures, asked about existing agreements, and finally asked if existing agreements could be amended to incorporate the performance measures. Ms. Smetana explained that an MOU exists between the MPO and the City relating to transit matters, another MOU is in place between the MPO and the City outlining duties of each party, and there is a planning contract in place between the MPO, the City, and TxDOT. She noted that the proposed MOU includes all performance measures. Ms. Messer said the Board could table the action or move to amend existing agreements if desired. Ms. Smetana reminded the Board of the May 27 deadline but remarked that it is unclear if penalties might be applicable should this date not be met.

Judge Spurgin observed that the title of the agreement appears to imply it is limited to CityLink and transit matters. He indicated the body of the agreement however is broader. Ms. Messer repeated that CityLink is not an independent entity therefore it cannot enter into agreements. The City is the operator of a transit service. Judge Spurgin indicated his comfort with incorporating performance

standards into existing agreements. Ms. Smetana took note that although a single agreement is preferred she is aware of areas using separate agreements between entities. Chairman Kreitler stated that Paragraph C under Number 2 “Responsibilities of Parties “covers this.

Mr. Johnson made a **motion** to table the item to the next meeting of the Policy Board.
(*Motion dies for a lack of a second*).

Mr. Kreitler made a **motion** to approve the item with a **second** by Judge Bolls. *Motion carried (3-2)*
(*Aye - Kreitler, Bolls, Williams. Nay – Johnson, Spurgin.*)

6. Discussion and review of transportation projects.

TxDOT – Mr. Casey McGee updated the Board on the following projects:

I-20 and Taylor County – All lanes are open. Winters Freeway – Project is going well. Mill and fill expected to begin in a week. Loop 322 Ramp Relocation – Subgrade is cut, Base is laid. Phase 2 is expected to begin next month. Mr. McGee responded to a question about carbon fiber wrapping of bridges and compensation from drivers who hit guardrails.

City of Abilene - Mr. Larry Wright briefed the Board on the following projects:

Old Anson Road & Pioneer St. - Almost complete. Minor clean up only remaining. Willis St. - Construction expected to take all summer. Industrial Blvd. - Project has been bid but is awaiting end of school year to begin. SoDA Ph. II - Bids opened. CBD Hotmix West – Bids expected to be opened next week. TASA Sidewalk - Initial planning work related to federal requirements are beginning. Loop 322/TSTC - Site Design work for a new entrance road is in progress. Colony Hill Rd and Maple St. – Potential developer agreements in process. Griffith Road – Potential developer agreement in process.

CityLink - Ms. Linda Lockhart reported they are moving forward with implementing the new service changes. They are trying to ensure that at least a two-week notice is afforded to those with a service or bus stop location change.

7. Discussion and review of reports:

- **Financial Status**

Ms. Smetana reported that we have received two work orders. Billings 1 thru 5 show expenditures of \$81,948.05 with an authorization of \$238,454.89 for a remaining balance of \$156,506.84.

- **Operation Report**

Ms. Smetana reported that the Staff’s primary efforts since the last meeting has been related to meeting the April 5 deadline for submission of the FY 2017–2020 TIP into the States ESTIP system. She also noted staff has begun planning for a Ride of Silence event.

- **Director’s Report**

None at this time.

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

None at this time.

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

None at this time.

10. Recess to Executive Session.

Chairman Kreitler recessed the Policy Board into Executive Session at 2:17 p.m. pursuant to the following of the Open Meetings Act, with the following issues discussed during the closed session.

551.071 (Consultation with Attorney) Travel Demand Model Request for Proposals.

The meeting reconvened to Open Session at 2:52 p.m. Chairman Kreitler reported no votes or actions were taken in Executive Session.

11. Discussion and possible action on a Travel Demand Model Request for Proposals.

Ms. Smetana briefed the Board on the timeline of events associated with the Request for Proposals to date. Chairman Kreitler stated that on the advice of legal counsel he made a **motion** to rescind the recommendation to accept the proposal of Walter P. Moore and Cambridge Systematics and to reject all proposals and authorizing the MPO Executive Director to re-issue an RFP if that is the most advantageous action with a **second** by Mr. Johnson. *Motion carried (5-0).*

12. Adjournment

Having completed action on all items listed on the agenda Chairman Kreitler announced that the Board was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.