



**MINUTES OF THE ABILENE  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)  
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD  
PLANNING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP  
January 11, 2018**

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board held a meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2018, in the Prosperity Bank Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 402 Cypress Street, Abilene, Texas.

**Policy Board Members Present:**

Councilman Bruce Kreidler, 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

**Policy Board Members Absent:**

Mayor Anthony Williams, City of Abilene Mayor

**Others in Attendance:**

Ms. E'Lisa Smetana, Abilene MPO Executive Director (TAC member)  
Ms. Wendy Allen, West Central COG Regional Services Director (TAC member)  
Mr. Tommy Downing, Dyess Air Force Base Community Planner (TAC member)  
Mr. Casey McGee, TxDOT Abilene Area Engineer (TAC member)  
Mr. Don Green, City of Abilene Transportation Director (TAC member)  
Mr. Michael Haithcock, P.E., TxDOT Abilene District TP&D Director (TAC member)  
Ms. Linda Lockhart, CityLink General Manager (TAC member)  
Mr. Michael Rice, City of Abilene Public Works Director (TAC member)  
Mr. James Rogge, City of Abilene Traffic Engineer (TAC member)  
Mr. Larry Wright, City of Abilene City Engineer (TAC member)  
Mr. Nick Page, TxDOT TP&P - MPO Coordinator (TAC Ex-officio member)  
Mr. Kirk Fauver, FHWA - Statewide Planning Engineer (TAC Ex-officio member)  
Mr. Ed McRoy (AICP) Transportation Planner II (MPO)  
Ms. Kelley Messer, City of Abilene Assistant City Attorney

**1. Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

**2. Presentations and Discussions**

Presentations and short question and answer opportunities were provided by the individuals noted below on the topics identified:

### MPO Process

Introductions and Welcome - Presenter - Elisa Smetana (Abilene MPO)

Planning – Presenter – Ms. Peggy Thurin (TxDOT)

### Project Management

Introduction - Presenter – Michael Haithcock (TxDOT)

Public Involvement – Presenter – Julie Jerome (TxDOT)

Funding – Presenter - Cliff Hallford (TxDOT)

Environmental Overview – Presenter – Bobby Burke (TxDOT)

Design – Presenter – Brandon Vinson (TxDOT)

Right of Way – Presenter – Guy Sledge (TxDOT)

Utilities – Presenter – Stephanie Victor (TxDOT)

Consultant Contracts – Presenter – Julie Rodgers (TxDOT)

*Discussion Item only - no action taken*

### **3. Discussion on Future Planning**

Ms. Smetana asked each member to discuss or identify topics of possible concern, interest or desire that they would like to see addressed or that they believe may be important for the MPO to address in some way during future planning efforts. The list below summarizes items identified.

- New/Updated/Formalized Project Selection Process
- Bicycle and pedestrian improvements
  - Need in general
  - Need near transit
  - Use of Category 10 funds
  - Consider scooters in planning and design
  - Consider conducting a special study relating to pedestrian needs
- Improve inclusivity and/or service to disabled

#### Possible Responses

- Ombudsman (possible action)
- Membership in TAC
- New City of Abilene Disability Committee
- Improve communication
- Hold annual joint meetings of PB and TAC
- Somehow use available funding when establishing project selection
- Consider safety performance measures in planning and prioritizing
- Consider medians and/or narrow lane widths on S 1<sup>st</sup> St.

*Discussion Item only - no action taken*

### **4. Adjournment.**

Meeting adjourned by acclimation at 1:30 p.m.