



**MINUTES OF THE ABILENE  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD**

**April 17, 2019**

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 17, 2019, in the City Council Chambers, Abilene City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, Texas.

**Members Present:**

Councilman Shane Price, City of Abilene (*Policy Board Chairman*)  
Judge Dale Spurgin, Jones County  
Mayor Anthony Williams, City of Abilene

**Members Absent**

Mr. Carl Johnson, P.E., TxDOT Abilene District Engineer  
Judge Downing Bolls, Taylor County (*Policy Board Vice-Chairman*)

**Staff of Member Agencies in Attendance:**

Mr. Bobby Sharpe, CityLink, General Manager  
Mr. Cliff Hallford, TxDOT, Advanced Planning Manager  
Mr. Greg McCaffery, P.E. City of Abilene Director of Public Works  
Mr. Paul Norman, P.E., P.E. TxDOT, Abilene Area Engineer  
Ms. Kelley Messer, City of Abilene Assistant City Attorney  
Mr. Mike Warrix, AICP, City of Abilene Director of Planning and Development Services  
Mr. James Rogge, P.E. City of Abilene Interim City Engineer  
Ms. Cheryl Sawyer, TxDOT, Public Information Officer  
Ms. Jill D'Entremont, City of Abilene Media Specialist

**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 Price called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. He announced that public comment could be taken on any item appearing on the agenda during the discussion of that item.

**2. Consideration and action on the minutes of the February 19, 2019 meeting.**

Judge Spurgin made a **motion** to approve the minutes as presented, with a **second** by Mayor Williams. *Motion carried (3-0).*

**3. Discussion and action on a FINAL amendment to the FYs 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).**

Chairman Price indicated that there were no substantive changes from the DRAFT. He then noted an opportunity for public input would be provided and asked if any members of the Board had any questions.

Ms. Smetana confirmed that the only changes included adding dates related to public information and that Appendix B history was updated to add dates. She noted that on Page 9 additions would be made to reflect any comments which might be received at this meeting. Chairman Price asked if any comments from the public had been received to date. Ms. Smetana responded that no comments had

been received. She added that the Plan would need to be entered into the statewide electronic filing system known as the ESTIP on Monday April 22, 2019.

Chairman Price opened the floor to any members of the public who wished to comment. With no individuals indicating a desire to speak and no comments received the Chairman closed the floor to public comments.

Mayor Williams made a **motion** to approve the Final Amendment to the FYs 2019-2022 TIP as presented with a **second** by Judge Spurgin. *Motion Carried (3-0).*

**4. Discussion and action on a Request for Proposals for a Consultant for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) FY 2020-2045.**

Chairman Price indicated that there are some outstanding questions on this matter and that additional information is still being sought from the responders. For that reason this item is being pulled from the agenda and a special meeting in May is in the works.

Judge Spurgin asked if the MPO is in compliance with the City's bidding process. Ms. Messer clarified that this is a proposal and not a bid but yes we are in compliance. She further clarified that this item is not yet ready for Board action until such time as the outstanding questions can be answered. *No action required.*

**5. Discussion and action on a DRAFT FYs 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).**

Ms. Smetana explained that the UPWP is basically a two-year MPO Budget. She informed the Board that the draft had been presented to and approved by the Technical Advisory Committee on April 5, 2019. She explained that the Draft is due to TxDOT on June 3, 2019 and the Final is due on August 1, 2019. Ms. Smetana then identified each of the five designated tasks areas and provided a detailed description of them. She noted that the UPWP also includes transit planning funding. She noted that Pages 22 and 23 contain summaries of all funding expected in FYs 2020 and 2021 and that these are estimated amounts based on current funding levels.

Mayor Williams made a **motion** to approve the Draft 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with a **second** by Judge Spurgin. *Motion Carried (3-0).*

**6. Discussion and any action on a Policy Board Workshop.**

Ms. Smetana informed the Board that some of the dates looked at were good for the TAC and others were good for the Policy Board but so far no date had been found which was good for both. She noted that attempts would be made to find a good date in June. *No action required.*

**7. Discussion and review of transportation projects.  
(By TxDOT Staff, City Staff, CityLink Staff)**

**TxDOT** – Mr. Paul Norman updated the Board on the following projects:

Winters Freeway – Milling, seal coating, and hotmix overlay north of interstate will commence when the contractor remobilizes. Project completion is expected in Spring 2019. S. 1<sup>st</sup> St./BI-20 – Repaving from Loop 322 to Treadaway is being completed. Milling and undersealing is currently underway from Treadaway to US 83/84. Project completion expected fall 2019. US 83 Illumination Upgrade - Project runs from N. 10<sup>th</sup> St. to S. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Construction is under way. Project completion is expected in late summer 2019. Remington/Clark Overpass Project – Project runs from FM 707 to the US 83/84 split. Subgrade widening on the southern section is underway. Intersection and drainage

structures are under construction. Project completion is expected in 2021. FM 89 from south of Mabray Lane to FM 707 – Contract is let. Project will start in late spring.

**City of Abilene** - Mr. McCaffery briefed the Board on the following projects:

Signalization - This project is winding down. Some pedestrian signals near Ambler and Grape are expected to begin this week. 2018 Bond Projects – These are essentially complete. Some punch list items remain. 2019 Bond Projects - Six projects listed - none have begun. Pre-bid meetings will begin in the next few weeks. Catclaw and Rebecca Intersection - Bids have been received. Ridgemont Drive - This is the only Street Maintenance Fee Program project currently moving forward. The City is still collecting funds for that program.

**CityLink** - Mr. Sharpe briefed the Board on the following items. CityLink has accepted delivery of three (3) new paratransit vans. These vehicles should be going into service very soon. The City of Abilene and CityLink have entered into a contract with Disability in Action (DIA) and LinkUp to provide limited paratransit service. Ridership from January to February is up 2.7% and up 4.3% from February to March. CityLink is still expecting an audit (usually conducted every three years) by the Federal Transit Administration sometime in late 2019.

#### 8. Discussion and review of reports:

- **Financial Status**

Ms. Smetana reported that two billings have been received for January and February. Total authorized is \$237,684 with expenditures being \$82,681.25 for a remaining balance of \$155,002.75. She noted that this does not include carryover money which should be about \$227,000 when released.

- **Operation Report**

Ms. Smetana reported that the operations report has been included in the packet. She noted the staff has been focused quite a bit on the RFP, the UPWP and some other required documents. She noted that all year end reports have now been taken care of.

- **Director's Report**

Ms. Smetana reported that a full report has been included in the packet. She highlighted future work including the Travel Demand Model, UPWP, ESTIP, TASA program requests, a Ride of Silence bicycle event and actions related to potential changes to the National Highway System.

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

Mr. Bruce Kreitler addressed the Board relating to two issues. His first issue relates to what he described as the installation of "corduroy" (rumble strip) paving surfaces along shoulders. He indicated he does not think this type of paving is safe and encouraged it not be installed or reinstalled along US 83 as a part of the pending improvements for this roadway. His contention is that this type of paving turns a safe paving surface into an unsafe one. His second issue concerned the Hwy 80 work being done on the east side from Treadaway to the Loop. He indicated there has not been adequate signage notifying drivers regarding the closing of ramps at various times. He indicated that ramp closure signage has not been placed far enough back to allow drivers to be adequately prepared for this change resulting in a safety concern.

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

None at this time.

**11. Adjournment.**

With no further discussion, actions, or items pending Chairman Price declared the meeting adjourned.

*Meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.*