



MINUTES OF THE ABILENE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

February 19, 2019

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 19, 2019, in the City Council Chambers, Abilene City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, Texas.

Members Present:

Judge Downing Bolls, Taylor County (*Policy Board Vice-Chairman*)
Mr. Carl Johnson, P.E., TxDOT Abilene District Engineer
Councilman Shane Price, City of Abilene (*Policy Board Chairman*)
Judge Dale Spurgin, Jones County
Mayor Anthony Williams, City of Abilene

Staff of Member Agencies in Attendance:

Ms. Jill D'Entremont, City of Abilene Interactive Media Specialist, Webmaster
Mr. Cliff Hallford, TxDOT, Advanced Planning Manager
Mr. Anthony Jones, FHWA, Planning Representative
Mr. Greg McCaffery, P.E. City of Abilene Director of Public Works
Mr. Michael Rice, P.E. City of Abilene Asst. City Manager
Mr. Paul Norman, P.E., P.E. TxDOT, Abilene Area Engineer
Mr. Stanley Smith, City of Abilene City Attorney
Ms. Lauren Stephens, Asst. General Manager CityLink
Mr. Mike Warrix, AICP, City of Abilene Director of Planning and Development Services
Mr. Larry Wright, P.E. City of Abilene City Engineer
Mr. Nick Page, TxDOT, MPO Coordinator
Ms. Cheryl Sawyer, TxDOT, Public Information Officer

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 December 18, 2018 meeting.

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

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

Mr. McRoy briefed the Board on the proposed changes to the current FYs 2019-2022 TIP. He informed the Board that the major changes include the addition of one new highway project, the amending of three transit projects, and the addition of a new Appendix D dealing with performance measures. In addition to the major changes a number of minor text amendments are also proposed in various places which are either minor administrative matters or which simply update information to reflect a current status.

The first major change is the addition of a new frontage road project to be located along the east side of Hwy 83/84 which will connect FM 707 to Antilley Road. This project has already been included in the MTP and the Ten-Year Plan. The approximate cost is estimated to be about \$7,000,001 with an 80/20 Federal/State cost split proposed. Up to \$3.5 million in MPO funds are planned for this project. Chairman Price asked if sidewalks are included. Mr. Hallford (TxDOT) indicated they are not.

Referring to a different project also listed in the FYs 2019-2022 TIP, Chairman Price asked about the timing of an intersection improvement proposed for Antilley Road and Buffalo Gap Road (FM 89). Mr. Hallford stated that they would look into this.

Mr. McRoy then referred to the changes in transit projects. He noted that the proposed changes had come in after the most recent Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting so the TAC had not reviewed them. The first change is administrative to correct project funding for a small capital equipment project from the 5307 category to 5339. The second change reflects updated State formula funding which allows CityLink to acquire additional SUV support vehicles. The currently approved TIP shows the purchase of a full-sized ADA compatible fixed route bus in 2019. Using carryover funds from 2017 and 2018 CityLink wants to acquire a bus in 2019 or 2020 plus an additional number of SUV support vehicles in either of these years depending on available funding and costs. The project description in 2019 has been modified and a new project has been added in 2020 to reflect this change.

Judge Bolls asked how the SUV's would be utilized. Mr. McRoy asked Ms. Stephens from CityLink to respond. She informed the Board that the SUV's are used by supervisors and they are also used on occasion to transport passengers. She noted that the current support vehicles are not sufficient in size to hold walkers used by some passengers without removing the spare tires from the vehicles. The SUV's would have a larger carrying capacity to accommodate this.

The final major change in the TIP is a proposed new Appendix D. This new amendment is a narrative that relates to performance measures as required by the FAST Act. Mr. McRoy explained the proposed Appendix D provides a detailed explanation of the federal performance measures applicable in our area, a description of how these measures are being utilized locally, and a report on our local project selection process.

Finally, Mr. McRoy noted that a number of minor text amendments were included in the proposed Amendment 1. These amendments included simple administrative things such as page changes and more substantive text amendments. These more substantive text amendments primarily update actions taken by the Board that had previously been referred to as matters that were going to be addressed in the future.

Mayor Williams made a **motion** to approve the Draft Amendment to the FYs 2019-2022 TIP as presented with a **second** by Judge Spurgin. *Motion Carried (5-0)*.

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

Ms. Smetana explained that she had been hopeful a proposal could have been ready for Board action. She explained however that holidays, vacations and a new regulatory requirement had prevented this. She noted that MPO's are now required to obtain Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Goals from TxDOT for any RFP. The MPO forwarded the RFP to TxDOT on February 1, 2019. Once we get this back from them proposals can then be solicited. She informed the Board that an evaluation

sub-committee has been established by the TAC already.

The TAC reviewed the proposed tasks and made recommendations for changes. Ms. Smetana noted that this item would be back before the Board again for final approval action once bids had been secured. Mr. Johnson stated that some of his questions had been answered and that he did not have any additional questions at this time.

No other comments. Chairman Price moved to the next agenda item. *No action required.*

5. Discussion and any action on a Policy Board Workshop.

On January 11, 2018 the Abilene MPO Policy Board held a joint Workshop with members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Ms. Smetana explained that during that meeting one of the items expressed was a desire to hold additional joint workshops in the future. She explained that this agenda item is intended to determine if the Board still desires holding such a meeting. If so, she is interested in identifying topics of interest for such a meeting.

Mayor Williams indicated a desire to address the funding of off-system projects. Chairman Price noted the possibility of working on visioning. Mr. Johnson indicated a desire to have a more informal discussion than what was done at the last workshop. Judge Spurgin echoed the desire for more discussion as opposed to having a series of presentations. Suggestions were made to seek attendance by state elected leaders. Ms. Smetana suggested members could email her topics of interest and other additional suggestions. *No action required.*

6. Discussion and review of transportation projects.

(By TxDOT Staff, City Staff, CityLink Staff)

Chairman Price welcomed Nick Page (TxDOT) and Anthony Jones (FHWA) as special guests.

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

Winters Freeway – Project includes bridge rail upgrades, milling at various locations and overlay. The bridge rail replacement is done except for areas over the railroad. The mill and fill portion of the project is done up to the interstate. Project completion expected late spring 2019. S. 1st St./BI-20 R – Repaving from Loop 322 to Treadaway is currently under way. Project completion expected spring 2019. US 83 Illumination Upgrade - Project runs from N. 10th St. to S. 1st St. Construction under way. Project completion is expected in late spring 2019. Remington/Clark Overpass Project – Project runs from FM 707 to the US 83/84 split. They have set portable barriers and have begun work in the locations where widening is planned. Project completion is expected in 2021.

Judge Spurgin asked about oversized loads being routed up FM 707 into Anson due to construction work. Mr. Norman said he would look into it.

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

SODA Phase II - Project is complete. Industrial Blvd – Project is complete. CBD West – Project is 95% complete. Asphalt work is expected to be complete mid-January 2019. Hartford from Veterans Blvd. to Clack - Contract awarded, Corsicana from Texas Ave. to Benbrook St., - Contract awarded. Vogel from Danville to Grape – Contract awarded. Leggett from S. 1st St. to S. 7th St. – Contract awarded. N. 1st St. from Railroad ROW to Pioneer Dr. - Bid received – Contract to go to City Council on February 28th. SODA Phase 3 - consisting of 4 streets. Bid opening will be February 28th. Mr. Wright reported that four additional projects from the 2015 Bond are in the design phase. He noted that 24 of the 25 original 2015 bond projects are within or under budget. Cost savings from these should allow them to do a few more projects in the future.

CityLink - Ms. Stephens briefed the Board on the following items. CityLink has accepted delivery of three (3) new paratransit vans from Alliance Bus Sales. The City of Abilene and CityLink have entered into a contract with Disability in Action (DIA) and LinkUp to provide limited paratransit service. CityLink is expecting an audit (usually conducted every three years) by the Federal Transit Administration sometime in the late spring or early summer of 2019. She also stated that Mr. Ben Herr is interim general manager and they are actively recruiting. Councilman Price asked how the route changes are going. Ms. Stephens stated that they are looking at doing some tightening up the times and republishing the books but overall the changes to the routes have been well received.

7. Discussion and review of reports:

• **Financial Status**

Ms. Smetana reported that two work orders amounting to \$237,684 with expenditures being \$50,440.93 for a remaining balance of \$187,243.07. She noted that this does not include carryover money which should be about \$227,000. This should be available once all the final reports are in from 2018.

• **Operation Report**

Ms. Smetana reported that the operations report has been included in the packet.

• **Director's Report**

The Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER) was submitted to TxDOT on December 13, 2018. Approval for this has been received. Highway project information for the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP) was provided by TxDOT on January 15th and transit information was received from the City of Abilene on February 11th. The report is being reviewed for submission by the end of the month. Work on the Travel Demand Model is pending a work authorization from TxDOT for demographics. The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is due in April. An update to the MTP is due January 20, 2020.

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

Mr. Hallford addressed the Board relating to previous questions asked by Board members. He noted that some pedestrian improvements might be installed at the intersection of FM 707 with the US 83/84 frontage road project. He discussed timing related to the intersection project at Antilley Road and Buffalo Gap Road.

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. Adjournment.

With no further discussion, actions, or items pending Chairman Price declared the meeting adjourned. *Meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.*