



**MINUTES OF THE ABILENE  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD  
AT THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) WORKSHOP  
AUGUST 5, 2019**

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board had a quorum of members present at the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) workshop at 10:15 a.m. on Monday, August 5, 2019, in the South Branch Library Conference Room, 4310 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene, Texas.

**Members Present:**

Councilman Shane Price, City of Abilene (*Policy Board Chairman*)  
Judge Dale Spurgin, Jones County  
Mayor Anthony Williams, City of Abilene (*Departs approximately 11:38 a.m.*)  
Mr. Carl Johnson, P.E., TxDOT Abilene District Engineer  
Judge Downing Bolls, Taylor County (*Policy Board Vice-Chairman*) (*Arrives approximately 11:25 a.m.*)

**Members Absent**

None

**TAC Voting Members Present:**

Ms. E'Lisa Smetana, Abilene MPO Executive Director – Chair  
Mr. Tommy Downing, Dyess Air Force Base Community Planner  
Mr. Michael Haithcock, P.E., TxDOT Abilene District TP&D Director  
Mr. Paul Norman, P.E., TxDOT Abilene Area Engineer  
Councilwoman Nancy Moore, City of Tye Public Works Designee  
Mr. Dan Richardson, P.E., TxDOT Abilene Director of Operations  
Mr. Bobby Sharpe, CityLink General Manager  
Ms. P.J. Sumner, WCTCOG Environmental Program Coordinator  
Mr. Charlie Thomas, P.E., City of Abilene Interim City Engineer  
Mr. Mike Warrix, AICP, City of Abilene Director of Planning and Development Services

**TAC Voting Members Absent:**

Commissioner Ross Davis, Jones County  
Mr. Don Green, City of Abilene Transportation Director  
Mr. Justin Jaworski, Exec Dir, Develop Abilene, Abilene Chamber of Commerce  
Mr. Greg McCaffery, P.E., City of Abilene Public Works Director  
Mr. James Rogge, P.E., City of Abilene Traffic Engineer  
Mr. Chuck Downs, City of Tye Mayor Pro-Tem  
Mr. Woody Shanks, City of Impact Mayor Pro-Tem  
Commissioner Randy Williams, Taylor County – Vice-Chair

**TAC Non-Voting Members Present:**

Mr. Nick Page, TxDOT TP&P MPO Coordinator

**TAC Non-Voting Members Absent:**

Ms. Lynn Hayes, Federal Transit Administration Community Planner  
Ms. Winona Henry, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Regional Director  
Mr. Anthony Jones, Federal Highway Administration Statewide Planning Engineer  
Ms. Jessica Pena, TxDOT Public Transportation Coordinator

**Others Staff of Member Agencies in Attendance:**

Ms. Kelley Messer, City of Abilene First Assistant City Attorney  
Mr. Cliff Hallford, TxDOT, Advanced Planning Manager  
Mr. Michael Rice, P.E., City of Abilene, Assistant City Manager  
Ms. Peggy Thurin, TxDOT Systems Planning Section Director  
Mr. Lauren Garduno, P.E., TxDOT Executive Assistant  
Mr. Rob Rae, Walter P. Moore Senior Associate

**MPO Staff in Attendance:**

Mr. Ed McRoy, AICP, Abilene MPO Transportation Planner II

**1. Call to Order.**

*Ms. Smetana called the Technical Advisory Committee to order at 10:15 a.m.*

Since a quorum of Policy Board members were present, Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.

**2. Introductions**

Introductions were conducted around the room.

**3. Workshop Overview**

Ms. Smetana gave a workshop overview.

**4. MPO Process**

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

Planning Overview/Funding Sources and Categories – Presenter – Ms. Peggy Thurin (TxDOT)

Federal Process - Presenter – Michael Haithcock (TxDOT)

Planning and Programming Documents – Presenter – Ms. Elisa Smetana (MPO)

Current Projects and Future Projects - Presenter - Cliff Hallford (TxDOT)

1-20 Six Lanes and MPO Options - Lauren Garduno (TxDOT)

*Discussion Item only - no action taken.*

**5. Vision, Goals, and Objectives for the MPO**

**6. Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

**7. Future Planning, General Discussion, and Questions**

An interactive discussion with participants was conducted facilitated by Elisa Smetana (Abilene MPO) and Rob Rae (Walter P Moore) on the above listed topics Items 5,6 &7 Some items discussed include the following:

**Identified Strengths**

\*Short Commutes

\* Grid Pattern Streets North Abilene (Connectivity)

\* Predicable Traffic Patterns

\* CityLink Transit (urban areas and new on-demand service)/Partnerships with some private providers (more needed)

\* On-system Pavement Quality

Identified Needs/Concerns

- \*Safety Speed on Winters Freeway
  - Speed Enforcement
  - Accident Hotspots identified on all proposed projects
- \*Driver inattention
- \*Protection of vulnerable users - pedestrians/bicyclists
- \*Fatalities Interstate #- on/off ramps
  - Railroads - Train/Pedestrian crashes (N 1<sup>st</sup> St)
    - Train horns not being blown
    - Business 20 crossing
- \*Passing in residential zones
- \*Red light running
- \*Safe zones (wide shoulders) along high speed roads - Allows for police enforcement
- \*Access management – Reduce conflict points/Identify concentrations of conflict points in MTP – Provision of back access routes
- \*Traffic Signals – Signal coordination
  - Detection
  - Signal timing
  - Signal connectivity
  - Enhanced intersections
- \*Grid system in suburban areas
- \*Street Conditions – Maintenance
- \*Transit – Connection to rural areas
- \*Bike/Ped – Connectivity

Identified Focus Areas (25 years)

- \* Winters Freeway S 7<sup>th</sup> to N 10<sup>th</sup> & N 10<sup>th</sup> to I 20
- \* AirPort/Zoo/Expo Center area
- \*US 277 through Jones and Taylor
- \*Extension of 322 at I-20 N to SH 351 and then to 83
- \*Access roads along Loop 322 – both sides 2 lanes, 2-way to 1-way
- \*I-20
  - 4 to 6 lanes
  - Extend Judge Ely over or under from S to N
  - Frontage road along north side (stops near Pine St.)
- \*Freight Issues
  - Traffic on I-20
  - Oversized and long loads (windmill components)
  - Weight limits for rural roads
  - Cut through traffic on 707
  - GPS routing
- \*FM 600 access road connection
- \*Limit project ranking/scoring to feasible projects only

*Discussion Item only - no action taken.*

**8. Adjournment.**

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Price at 1:45 p.m.