



**MINUTES OF THE ABILENE METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD  
August 15, 2023**

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 15, 2023 in the South Branch Library Conference Room, 4310 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene, Texas.

**Policy Board Members Present:**

Mr. Glenn Allbritton, P.E., TxDOT Abilene District Engineer  
 Judge Phil Crowley, Taylor County Judge (*In 12:16 pm. Out 2:43 pm*)  
 Mayor Weldon Hurt, City of Abilene (*Out 2:42 p.m.*)  
 Councilman Shane Price, City of Abilene (*Policy Board Chairman*)  
 Judge Dale Spurgin, Jones County Judge (*Policy Board Vice-Chairman*)

**TAC Voting Members Present:**

Mr. Scott Chandler P.E., City of Abilene, City Engineer  
 Mr. Michael Haithcock P.E., TxDOT, Abilene District, Trans. Planning & Development Director  
 Mr. Max Johnson, City of Abilene, Public Works Director  
 Mr. Paul Norman P.E., TxDOT, Director of Maintenance  
 Ms. E'Lisa Smetana, Executive Director (*TAC Chair*)  
 Mr. Preston "Conrad" Smith, Dyess AFB, Community Planner  
 Ms. Lauren Stevens, CityLink General Manager  
 Ms. PJ Sumner, WCTCOG Environmental Program Coordinator.  
 Mr. Bryce Turentine, P.E., TxDOT, Abilene Area Engineer  
 Commissioner Randy Williams, Taylor County (*TAC Vice Chair*) (*Out 12:15 pm. In 2:21pm.*)  
 Mr. Doug Williamson, Abilene Chamber of Commerce Director Gov/Mil. Affairs/Comm. Prtnrshp

**TAC Voting Members Absent:**

Mr. Don Green, City of Abilene, Transportation Director  
 Mr. Tim Littlejohn, City of Abilene, Planning & Development Services Director  
 Mayor Nancy Moore, City of Tye

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Mr. Mansour Shiraz, TxDOT, TP&P MPO Coordinator  
 Mr. Phillip Tindall, TxDOT, TP&P Metropolitan Planning Branch Manager

**Staff of Member Agencies in Attendance:**

Mr. Seth Bluhm, Dyess AFB Representative, (Designee: Smith)  
 Mr. Scott Darrow P.E., TxDOT  
 Mr. Billy Dezern, TxDOT, (Designee: Haithcock)  
 Ms. Jill D'Entremont, City of Abilene (*virtual meeting City Hall*)  
 Mr. Tremain Jackson, City of Abilene  
 Mr. Tracy Jones P.E., TxDOT  
 Mr. Cary Karnstadt, TxDOT Transportation Planning & Programming Division

Mr. Will Ratliff, City of Abilene, (Designee Chandler)  
Mr. Michael Rice, City of Abilene, Assistant City Manager  
Mr. Mike Roetheli, P.E., TxDOT  
Ms. Randee Shields, TxDOT, Director of Transportation Operations  
Mr. Stanley Smith, City of Abilene, City Attorney

**MPO Staff in Attendance:**

Ms. Rita Ryan, Abilene MPO Office Assistant III

**Others in Attendance:**

Mr. James Condry, Citizen  
Mr. Bob Hazlett, Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI)  
Ms. Tracy Michel, Garver USA  
Mr. Kris Southward, Citizen  
Ms. Wendy Travis, Garver USA

**1. Call to Order.**

Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm. He announced that public comment would be accepted on any item on the agenda during the discussion of that item. He advised if you wished to make a comment to raise your hand and you would be recognized.

**2. Consideration and Take Action on the Policy Board Minutes of the June 20, 2023 meeting.** The Chairman asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections, there were not, so he asked for a motion.

Mr. Allbritton made a *motion* to approve the June 20, 2023 meeting minutes as presented, with a *second* by Judge Spurgin. *Motion carried (4-0)*.

**3. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion, and Any Action on the Ports to Plains (P2P) Implementation Strategy and Plan.**

Ms. Smetana introduced Mr. Karnstadt; he gave a history of the Ports to Plains, and then proceeded to give a step-by-step update of the project progression. He noted TxDOT and the Garver Consulting Team are developing a strategy to enable the network of highways in Texas to be upgraded to Interstate standards. He discussed the planned approach. Mr. Karnstadt spoke on project selection stating the annual project scoring system evaluates all projects prior to developing the Unified Transportation Program (UTP) each year; each project competes for funding during the annual project selection process in the UTP. Mr. Karnstadt ended his presentation and asked if there were any questions.

Chairman Price thanked Mr. Karnstadt and asked for clarification that it is not within the MPO Boundary but is within the TxDOT Abilene District. Mr. Karnstadt concurred. Judge Spurgin asked if there was a study for roads within our area that will be traveled for example I 20 and US 277 or if there was any information on the projected travel demands or volume due to the Ports to Plains Highway for our area. Mr. Karnstadt assured him that there would be

information available when they complete the implementation efforts and it would be included in the report. No further questions asked, no action taken.

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

**TxDOT** – Mr. Turentine presented the TxDOT Current Construction: **#1)** Business I20-R - Safety Improvement project (illumination) from Leggett Drive to Ross Avenue completed and approved except the illumination by the Szechuan Restaurant that was struck, we are standing it back up then the project will be complete. **#4)** IH-20 - Overlay from West of Old Anson Road to Callahan County Line, **#5)** IH-20 - Overlay from .75 mile east of Hayter Road to West of Old Anson Road. **#6)** IH-20 - Overlay from Near Wells Lane to .075 miles East of Hayter Road. **#7)** ES 7<sup>th</sup> Street - Bridge replacement at Cedar Creek has let, construction beginning in the middle of September. Sites **#8**, **#9** and **#10** are Median Barrier and have let: **8)** concrete barrier SL 322 from N 10<sup>th</sup> Street to Lytle Creek, **9)** cable barrier US 83 from Bus 83 Interchange to 1300' North of Ambler Avenue and **10)** cable barrier US 83 FM 707 to .02 mi. north of FM 3034.

Mr. Turentine discussed the 2023-2027 Planned Projects: **#1)** FM 1082 - Construct new road west of Cheyenne Creek Road to East of Dam. **#2)** US 83 - Construct bridge .67 miles north of FM 3034 to .28 miles south of FM 3034 **#3)** FM 3034 - Widen road and add shoulders from US 83 to near PR 343. **#4)** FM 3034 - Rehabilitate existing roadway from Brick Road to FM 600. **#11)** I-20 - Widen road and add shoulders from Judge Ely Blvd. to SH 351. He then discussed the Preventive Maintenance Projects: **#5)** I-20 from Nolan County Line to Near Wells Lane (WB) and **#6)** I-20 from Nolan County Line to Near Wells Lane (EB). **#7)** SH 36 Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements from BU 83D to FM 1750. **#8)** FM 18 - Overlay from SH 36 (east of the airport) to the Callahan County Line. **#9)** FM 2833 - (near the lake) Overlay from Jones County to SH 351. **#10)** FM 1082 - Widen road and add shoulders from CR 361 to FM 600. **#11)** IH-20 - Widen road, add lanes and shoulders from Judge Ely Blvd. to SH 351. **#12)** FM 1082 - Overlay from FM 2833 to FM 3522. **#13)** SH 351 - Overlay from Abilene City Limits to Callahan County Line. **#14)** FM 1235 - Widen road and add shoulders from CR 306 to US 277. **#15)** IH-20 - Overlay from South Frontage Road to near North Willis neat Catchlaw Creek. Projects **#16** and **#17** are Concrete Median Barrier: **#16)** US 83 from 1300 feet N of Ambler Avenue to N 10<sup>th</sup> Street and **#17)** SL 322 from Lytle Creek to US 83. **#18)** FM 1750 - Intersection improvement with Turn Lanes from Industrial Blvd. to 1200' South of Colony Hill Road. **#19)** US 277 - Rehabilitate existing Roadway from South end of BNSF Bridge to 3.7 miles SW of FM 1235. Projects **#20** and **#21** are US 277 Resurface Roadway projects: **#20)** from US 83 to FM 3438 and **#21)** from FM 3438 to South end of BNSF Bridge. **#22)** FM 3438 Install illumination from IH-20 North of Frontage Road to Near 5 Points Parkway. **#23)** FM 89 - Widen Road, Add Lanes and Shoulders from 1.219 miles South of Elm Creek to Elm Creek. **#24)** FM 36 -Widen Road and add Lanes from CR 123 to Callahan County.

**City of Abilene** – Mr. Chandler began his presentation by stating in the packet is a table with a listing of Projects under construction and Projects currently in Design. He explain he may move around a bit as some projects are connected to other projects.

Mr. Chandler began with Projects Currently Under Construction: **1)** Honey Bee Road Re-alignment - currently the project is on hold as the Water Department and utilities are moved in roadway. **2)** Maple Street (Carriage Hills Parkway to SL 322) is currently having storm drains installed with the focus around the school so they may reopen areas previously closed to assist in handling school traffic. Projects **#3** and **#9** have both been completed: **3)** North 6th Street & Cypress Street Improvements Project and **9)** North 5<sup>th</sup> Street two-way conversion. He shared that the City has looked at every intersection along that corridor resulting in some signals removed while leaving controlled signal lights at both Pine Street and Grape Street. **4)** Five Points Roadway Improvements (Fulwiler Road and Marigold Street) there have been many closures around the business park and they are striving to keep traffic flowing as the new concrete roadway is constructed from Arnold Blvd. to Fulwiler Road. **5)** EN 10<sup>th</sup> Street Improvements (Judge Ely Blvd. to SL 322) similar to the Maple Street Project as Taylor Elementary School is located within that corridor. Pavement has been completed to the East property line of the school (easing school traffic) as work continues to SL 322. Projects listed Under Construction: **6)** Work Zone S9C, **7)** Work Zone N2A & N2B and **8)** Work Zone S11B (nearing completion) and Projects in Design: **1)** Work Zone S5 and **2)** Work Zone S13 are also neighborhood-paving projects. Mr. Chandler spoke of the Street Advisory recommendations for some concrete intersections due to water and drainage or high traffic usage: Under Construction **10)** Pine Street @ North 10th Street Intersection (concrete poured, leaving signal improvements).

The In-Design Projects: **4)** South Willis Street @ South 7th Street Intersection **8)** North 18th Street @ Kirkwood Street Intersection and **6)** North 14th Street @ Westwood Drive Intersection are currently being designed. **11)** South 27<sup>th</sup> Street Improvements (South Danville Drive to Barrow Street) has been contracted and will begin construction in September 2023. **8)** South 27th Street Signal Improvements (Treadaway Blvd. to Catclaw Drive) - they will be improving some signals lights, adding flashing yellow arrows and retiming the signals from Treadaway Blvd. to Catclaw Drive to assist in traffic flow along the corridor. Mr. Chandler noted Design Project **7)** S 14th St Walkability Project (Sidewalks/Pedestrian Bridges) will be moving to Under Construction and bid at the end of this month.

**CityLink** – Ms. Stevens relayed news that the two new 30-foot buses are now in Irving to have the camera system installed with delivery to us hopefully by the beginning of October. She provided an update on the two Maintenance Projects: **1)** The Ceiling Fan Project has been completed. **2)** The Exhaust Fan Project is still in the procurement stage, they will begin that at the start of the next fiscal year. Ms. Steven stated the concrete transfer lanes repairs have been completed.

Chairman Price asked if once delivered the buses will be ready to go into service or is something else required first? Ms. Stevens replied that once arrived the buses will require an initial inspection, paperwork for titles to be submitted and returned along with a State Inspection. Chairman Price inquired if the buses have the radios and marking already completed. Ms. Stevens said the radio shop is the last thing done here in Abilene but the buses will have the camera system, the voice announcement system and the DPS Tracking System when they arrive.

**5. Discussion and review of reports:**

Ms. Smetana discussed the following reports and noted that the full detail is provided in the packets:

**Financial Status** – Ms. Smetana stated the packet contains financial information for Fiscal Year 2023 noting the May and June Billing are included. Ms. Smetana advised that the total authorization \$279,478.53 with expenditures of \$162,862.32, and a remaining balance of \$116,616.21. Chairman Price stated you are almost at the end of the fiscal year and it is somewhat similar to last fiscal year. Ms. Smetana agreed and stated we have still not received our carryover funds, noting the authorized balance will increase once those are distributed. No further questions were asked.

**Operation Report** – Ms. Smetana noted the entire report is included in the packet. She noted the report breakdown: Maps, Travel Demand Model, Reports, Collaboration, Projects, MPO Boundary Expansion (which she will expound upon during the workshop), Carbon Reduction Program, Project Selection Committee, and General MPO workflow. No questions asked.

**Director's Report** – No report at this time.

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

Mr. Kris Southward introduced himself and noted his home backs up to SL 322 and south of the Expo Center. He said as a longtime resident, he has seen the tremendous increase in traffic on SL 322 and the access road. He is concerned with the number of commuters on the access road traveling south to get to SL 322. Mr. Southward share his thoughts and ideas on how to alleviate some of the congestion in a safe manner. He referred to the Kimley-Horn Report which he said contained some good ideas and some not. Mr. Southward suggested we make the SL 322 Frontage Road from Hwy 36 to Expo Drive one-way going south. Construct a turn-around from the East SL 322 to the West side SL 322 Frontage Road and create an entrance onto SL 322 at or prior to Expo Drive. He would like us to keep the West side SL 322 Frontage Road two-way from Expo Drive southward to Oldham Road.

Judge Crowley if the Policy Board was able to look at the suggestion Mr. Southward proposed. Ms. Smetana said definitely and she suggested that we could look at it during the workshop as we discuss projects.

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

Ms. Smetana recommends looking at the MPO By-Laws as TxDOT has split one of their departments that may require the By-Laws to be amended.

**8. Workshop of the Transportation Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee****• Introductions and Workshop Overview – E'Lisa Smetana**

Ms. Smetana shared that we try to have these combined workshops with the Policy Board and the Technical Advisory Committee to have an opportunity to focus on the vision

statements; goals, objectives, and strategies; planning and programming; projects selection processes; MPO processes; project management; future planning - Metropolitan Transportation Plan; FHWA process; and current/future projects.

Ms. Smetana noted this workshop is to discuss MPO 101, TxDOT Project Management, Funding, and Consultant Management, MPO Boundary Expansion and Current/Future Projects. Projects will be the main item we will address. She said that it is a planning session so please share your thoughts, suggestions, and ideas.

- **MPO Overview - Phillip Tindall (TxDOT) and Bob Hazlett (Texas A & M Transportation Institute)**

Mr. Phillip Tindall, TP&P, Metropolitan Planning and Program Division Branch Manager of TxDOT introduced himself. Noting he works with all the MPO Coordinators who work with all the MPOs around the State and beginning October 1, 2023 he will be the Abilene MPO Coordinator. Mr. Tindall introduced Mr. Hazlett of the Texas A & M Transportation Institute.

Mr. Hazlett gave an overview of MPO Planning including: what it is, the evolution of it, legislative authorizations, Federal and State Authority, who makes up the Board, what are the responsibilities, what is the Technical Advisory Committee, and what does the MPO staff do. He addressed the differences between Transportation Management Areas and MPOs, planning issues to consider, performance based planning, the reports required (Unified Planning Work Program, Metropolitan Transportation Plan) and their correlation with the Unified Transportation Program. He went on to discuss funding challenges, public participation, and multimodal planning. At the conclusion of his presentation, no questions were asked.

- **TxDOT Project Management, Funding, and Consultant Management – Michael Haithcock, Billy Dezern, and Julie Rogers**

Mr. Haithcock provided an overview of MPO Projects and noted no two MPO projects are ever the same. He shared that a listing of projects and programs that are planned for construction may be found on the TxDOT Unified Transportation Program (UTP) noting it is an important planning and transportation tool. Mr. Haithcock discussed TxDOT Project Management in detail. Mr. Haithcock ended his presentation and turned the floor over to Mr. Dezern. Mr. Dezern discussed the complexity of Transportation Funding, the funding sources for the UTP, the percentages, and category funding.

Mr. Chandler asked about TxDOT needing smaller projects to start implementing. Mr. Haithcock addressed the question saying TxDOT is currently doing project acceleration and approximately \$30 million is available to fund the acceleration in Category 1, and we need to accelerate some Category 2 MPO Projects especially smaller projects. He suggested the biggest assistance would be to get the Project Selection Committee together, have Public Meetings and examine the 10 Year Plan as we did 3 or 4 years ago with some current MPO Funded Projects. TxDOT requires a really good list of Category 2 Projects, Mr. Haithcock would then be able to hire consultants, and start the process, thus allowing us to take advantage of a surge in funding. Judge Spurgin asked Mr. Haithcock if there

was a dollar amount that defines what a small project was. Mr. Haithcock stated it had to do more with moving utilities or right of way needs. Judge Spurgin asked for clarification if those items (obstacles) were not involved it would meet and could proceed. Mr. Allbritton advised that smaller projects are generally held between the \$3-to-\$5 million price range. No further questions were asked. Mr. Dezern stated TxDOTs Contract Specialist was unable to attend today's meeting. He offered to try and answer any questions concerning Consulting Management. No questions were forthcoming.

- **MPO Boundary Expansion**

Ms. Smetana noted that included in the packet is the current MPO Boundary Map based on the 2010 Census. She noted the current makeup of the TAC subcommittee on Boundary Expansion. She stated that we have had a few meetings working with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute. We are currently working with TxDOT on a contract that would allow AECOM to assist the MPO with our boundary expansion study. Ms. Smetana referred to the map identifying areas that are under consideration for MPO Boundary inclusion. The Travel Demand Model currently reflects significant growth to the south suggesting we extend the MPO Boundary to include the Buffalo Gap area. In addition, the area to the north might include some of Jones County area due to residential growth; and Callahan County plus the small piece of Jones County located just above Callahan County, due to the expansion occurring there and the documented traffic flow increase. Ms. Smetana noted if we do include Callahan County then we would add representation from Callahan County to the Policy and/or to the Technical Advisory Committee. She noted all of the proposed MPO Boundary Expansion areas are still in the preliminary stages. Ms. Smetana asked Mr. Tindall if he would like to speak or comment on this. Mr. Tindall stated TxDOT has AECOM under contract and they are giving them assistance to participate in the boundary expansion process, particularly with the GIS (Geographic Information System). Ms. Smetana thanked Mr. Tindall and told him the Abilene MPO was grateful for the assistance. She then ended her presentation and offered to answer any questions. Mr. Bluhm asked how far into Callahan County - are we considering is it all the way into Clyde. Ms. Smetana replied it has not yet been determined as we are looking at the entire area to determine where the traffic flows are originating. She shared that we are not currently modeling that area which makes it difficult to access but with AECOM assistance, a clearer determination should be forthcoming. She noted this is a twenty-five year expansion and we are looking at projected growth and its origination. Chairman Price asked if there was a time line for this to be brought before the Policy Board. Ms. Smetana shared her hope that we have it completed prior to the MTP due date of December 2024. She noted the expansion would require presentation to not only the Policy Board but approval by the governor. No further questions asked.

- **Discussion of Current and Future TxDOT and MPO Projects, and Related Projects.**

Ms. Smetana stated this will be an open discussion and an opportunity to discuss projects, current status and future projects. She pointed out that we do have a Project Nomination Form that is available at every meeting and on the MPO website. Ms. Smetana referred to the four documents the MPO uses frequently – the Unified Planning Work Program,

the Transportation Improvement Program, the 10-Year Plan, and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Ms. Smetana noted all of the MPO Highway and Transit Projects are listed in the packet. Ms. Smetana opened the discussion to the Policy Board and TAC.

Mr. Norman discussed the new Carbon Reduction Program and the project selection for this program that meets the criteria and allotted time requirements. He spoke on the suggested ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems) a traffic system that includes a closed caption camera systems on 50 foot poles used to monitor traffic for emergency and weather situations, plus DMS (Dynamic Message System. He shared that TxDOT is currently placing some of these items within and outside the MPO Boundary in a Phase 1 Project. Mr. Norman stated using a portion of the Carbon Reduction Plan for ITS would allow placement within the MPO area in addition to the current TxDOT project installations. Chairman Price asked if the camera system would be provided to the county sheriff and the local police departments. Mr. Norman replied yes. Chairman Price requested clarification that the system could be used in the case of an accident to enable quicker dispatch of first responders. Mr. Norman concurred and stated that is the top reason for the system. Mr. Norman explained that ITS is eligible for the Carbon Reduction Program because the monitored cameras will provide early detection/warning of incidents which enables a quicker response from first responders. First responders will then be able to provide assistance to the commuter allowing them to divert and clear the roadway for traffic flow to resume. The Message Boards will notify travelers of a delay allowing them to re-route until traffic flow is returned to normal. Mr. Norman also relayed that the ITS system will meet the timeline requirements and can be developed quickly.

Ms. Smetana explained that during the last TAC Meeting the projects discussed for the Carbon Reduction Program were: ITS, Electric Buses and Sidewalks. She noted the city was looking at some sidewalks but the issue is the first years funding combines the first 3 years of funding (2022, 2023 and 2024) and the 2022 funding must be obligated within 4 years or it will be lost. Ms. Smetana said we wanted to get an idea out of those three options (Green Electric Buses, Sidewalks or ITS) which one of those could we move forward, go before the TAC and get a decision on and then present to the Policy Board. Ms. Smetana stated if we decide to select ITS then TxDOT really requires a decision by October. She stated that in discussion with Mr. Green about the Electric Buses that they are not quite there yet. Ms. Smetana said the Carbon Reduction Program is a 10-year funding program. We may be able to fund the electric buses and the sidewalks in later years and move forward with ITS using with the first allocation. Mr. Norman stated one of the main issues with the electric buses is they do not have the infrastructure to charge the buses. He noted if we purchased the buses now they would not have the resources. He noted there is some potential in later years to do the buses or part of the infrastructure but he does not believe there is enough time for the planning in the time line of the first funding. Mr. Allbritton said essentially we have a year (next August) to obligate correct? He noted that any project even the ITS will be tough to meet that timeline as TxDOT has not even begun planning or working on that. Discussion was had on the three options and



the timeline needed to meet the first year's funding cycle. Mr. Allbritton stated that if TxDOT could get a good idea of direction from this meeting then they will be able to begin moving forward on the ITS if that is the direction selected. Chairman Price stated that what he is hearing is we have the ITS, the Green Buses or the Sidewalks and it seems that the ITS is the one project we could do with the highest likelihood of completing on time so we do not lose our funding. Chairman Price said it sound like a straightforward decision.

Further discussion was held on sidewalks with Mr. Bluhm and Mr. Smith both commenting that sidewalks were important to Dyess. Mr. Norman stated that sidewalks could be looked at with the future years funding in this category. Chairman Price stated he believes ITS is the most realistic project. Ms. Smetana asked Mr. Norman if that gives TxDOT enough to begin moving forward with the project. Mr. Norman said it does.

Chairman Price asked if there was anything further to discuss on the Carbon Reduction Program. None were presented. Chairman Price reminded everyone that they do have other projects to discuss. Chairman Price referred to Mr. Southwards' earlier suggestion about SL 322 by the Expo Center. He asked for a discussion on looking at the exit before the overpass and making the road a two way from Expo Drive (south) and a one way from SH 36 to Expo Drive. Mr. Haithcock stated this should be made an official MPO Project, which would allow TxDOT to hire consultants to look at the environmental schematics. Ms. Smetana said she has taken down some notes and that we need to get the Project Selection Committee together again and discuss this.

Mr. Allbritton mentioned FM 89 and left turns down by Buffalo Gap. Ms. Smetana asked for clarification that this is the project leading to Buffalo Gap with the dedicated turn lanes. Ms. Smetana noted this goes past the current MPO Boundary and Chairman Price suggested we could take it to the boundary.

Mr. Chandler requested the Maple Street Bridge over SL 322 be looked at because it is the only thing stopping the continuous bicycle path from Colony Hill Rd. to East South 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Haithcock noted that the bridge needs to be lifted.

Chairman Price shared a smaller project to be considered is when we finish the Maple Street sidewalk at South 11<sup>th</sup> Street and we have the Cedar Creek Walkway to South 11<sup>th</sup> Street we need a way to cross the creek so people can continue on that path. Mr. Chandler said at the intersection of Maple Street and East South 11<sup>th</sup> Street they have taken a count to see if it requires a signalization. He noted in the absence of a signal we will still require something there to allow a safe crossing, possibly a pedestrian signal of sorts.

Mr. Haithcock noted another project discussed was a sidewalk on Ambler Avenue to Treadaway Blvd. all the way to the Walmart. Ms. Smetana noted the City has a current grant application in for Old Anson Road so continuing that to connect would be a good

thing. It crosses Ambler Avenue with a signal. Mr. Chandler said there would be some challenges due to the width, right-a-way and utilities.

Mr. Allbritton mentioned the six lanes along Winters Freeway stating it is a long term project but he believes it should be on our list. He also thinks six lanes on the east of Winter Freeway should also be continued. Mr. Allbritton said all of the other I-20 projects will be funded by Cat 4 but he thinks they should still be on our list. He noted all four of those projects are from Winters Freeway east, so eventually we should try to get to the west side too.

Ms. Smetana said during the Mesquite fire, there really was limited options to connect out of the area on US 277. We need to look at more connections. She additionally noted if a car accident occurred on the roadway it shuts down the whole road. The same for an accident on 89 shutting down the road. A Message board noting there was an accident up ahead would have prevented half of the people traveling the road from having to turn around and go back as they could have exited the road sooner on some of the county roads.

Chairman Price asked if there were any further projects to discuss. None were presented. Ms. Smetana stated they would bring all of the suggestions from today to the Project Selection Committee and TAC and then present them to the Policy Board.

- **Workshop Wrap-up.**

No further discussion was presented for the workshop.

**The Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Board reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any item on the agenda as authorized by Texas Government Code Sections: 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about real property) 551.073 (Deliberations about gifts and donations), 551.074 (Personnel matters), and 551.076 (Deliberations about security devices). After discussion in executive session, any action or vote will be taken in public.**

**9. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion, and Take Action on the Evaluation of the Executive Director.**

Chairman Price announced that the Board would now adjourn into executive session which is authorized by the Texas Government Code Sections 551.074 (Personnel matters). The Policy Board adjourned into Executive Session at 2:50 p.m. The Policy Board returned to the regular meeting at 3:05 p.m. Chairman Price stated that they discussed the evaluation of E'Lisa Smetana the Executive Director and are happy with her performance. He stated that the Board is approving a pay increase that will be on file at the office.

**10. Adjournment.**

With no further business, Chairman Price adjourned the meeting at 3:06 p.m.