



**MINUTES OF THE ABILENE METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
December 19, 2023**

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 19, 2023, in the City Council Chambers, Abilene City Hall, 555 Walnut St., Abilene, Texas.

Voting Members Present

Mr. Glenn Allbritton, P.E., TxDOT Abilene District Engineer
 Judge Phil Crowley, Taylor County (in @ 1:36pm, out from 1:59 pm to 2:07pm)
 Councilmember Shane Price, City of Abilene (*Policy Board Chairman*)
 Judge Dale Spurgin, Jones County (*Policy Board Vice-Chairman*)

Voting Members Absent

Mayor Weldon Hurt, City of Abilene

Staff of Member Agencies in Attendance:

Mr. Seth Bluhm, Dyess Air Force Base, Community Planner
 Mr. Scott Chandler, P.E., City of Abilene, City Engineer
 Mr. Billy Dezern, TxDOT, Advanced Planning Manager/GIS Coordinator
 Ms. Nellie Doneva, City of Abilene, Videographer
 Mr. Jeff Duebner, City of Abilene, Assistant Public Works Director
 Mr. Michael Haithcock, TxDOT, P.E., Transportation Planning & Development Director
 Mr. Max Johnson, City of Abilene, Director of Public Works
 Ms. Kelley Messer, City of Abilene, First Assistant City Attorney
 Mr. Michael Rice P.E., City of Abilene, Assistant City Manager
 Ms. Randee Shields, P.E., TxDOT, Director of Transportation Operations
 Ms. Bobbye Sisk, CityLink, Assistant General Manager
 Mr. Bryce Turentine, P.E., TxDOT Abilene Area Engineer

MPO Staff in Attendance:

Ms. Rita Ryan, Abilene MPO, Office Assistant III
 Ms. E'Lisa Smetana, Abilene MPO, Executive Director

Others in Attendance:

Mr. James Condry, Citizen
 Mr. Bruce Neil, AISD, Transportation Operations Manager

1. Call to Order.

Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. He announced that public comments would be taken on any item on the agenda.

2. Consideration and Take Action on the minutes of the October 17, 2023 meeting.

Judge Spurgin made a *motion* to *approve* the minutes of the October 17, 2023 meeting as printed, with a *second* by Mr. Allbritton. *Motion Carried (3-0)*.

3. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion, and Take Action on the FY 2024 Safety Performance Measure (PM 1).

Ms. Smetana stated the Safety (PM 1) is due 180 days after TxDOT adopts their targets. The deadline for the MPO to adopt the PM 1 targets is February 27, 2024. She noted that included in the packet is

the Resolution we hope to have approved today. Ms. Smetana stated the TAC approved the FY 2024 Safety Performance Measure (PM 1) at their November 28, 2023 meeting. She stated that after the TAC meeting, TxDOT noted that they are reviewing the serious injury data because of questions that were raised. Ms. Smetana said that we have received clarification from TxDOT and these figures, with the added 2024 targets, are the ones to use. Ms. Smetana pointed out that the figures do not add up if you add the numbers and divide them by the years because TxDOT said that due to the new transportation bill - TxDOT had to either keep it the same number or lower it; TxDOT chose to keep it the same. She stated she would be happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Allbritton made a *motion* to approve the Resolution on the FY 2024 Safety Performance Measure (PM 1), with a *second* by Judge Spurgin. *Motion Carried (3-0)*.

4. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on an amendment to the FYs 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Ms. Smetana said that included in your packet is a proposed update to the FYs 2020-2045 MTP due to TxDOT asking the MPO to consider eight projects under the Category 2 MPO funding. She explained that four of the eight proposed projects are already listed in the MTP and the remaining four are new projects. Ms. Smetana said that the four projects already listed in the MTP will need to be updated with new cost projections and work description. Ms. Smetana referred to the list of projects contained in the packet. She explained this is a listing of projects compiled from recent TAC and PB meetings. She noted we will be using these projects for the new FYs 2025-2050 MTP, which is due December 17, 2024. The kick-off is slated to begin in February 2024. There will be numerous opportunities for public participation on project selection. Ms. Smetana turned the floor over to Mr. Haithcock to present the TxDOT Proposed Projects to the Policy Board.

Judge Crowley joined the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

Mr. Haithcock began his presentation with the proposed Category 2 projects. Project 1) Intersection improvements at SH 36 and SL 322, noting there has been substantial growth in the area over the last five years - some from the addition of Texas State Technical College (TSTC) and the great Lake Cheese Company. He discussed the MPO's commissioned study by Kimley-Horn. TxDOT would like to acquire a consultant to work off of the Kimley-Horn Study in an effort to produce an interim and possibly a long term solution for this location. Mr. Haithcock noted the wish to have an Environmental Schematic for a long term solution. Project 2) FM 707 five lane, Mr. Haithcock said this is on the east side of US 83, the west side is already a TxDOT Project. Public feedback received was the five lane road should continue to Maple Street and possibly all the way to FM 1750. Mr. Haithcock stated they would like an environmental schematic and to purchase right of way to secure the corridor. Project 3) Intersection of BUS 83 and Pine Street. TxDOT would like to look at several options to alleviate the awkwardness of this intersection. Project 4) FM 89 three lane with turn lanes, project would be to reconstruct FM 89 as three lanes with turn lanes from FM 707 to the south MPO limit. Mr. Haithcock said this project was suggested by Taylor County Commissioner Bircham during the Policy Board Meeting in October. Project 5) SL 322 Extension, from IH 20 to SH 351. TxDOT would like to do some feasibility studies. They have discussed this project with the City on the possibility of not only extending SL 322 to SH 351 but all the way to US 83 on the north side. The feasibility study would provide us with the best horizontal alignment. Project 6) US 83 six lane from South 7th Street to IH 20. Mr. Haithcock stated the project would begin past South 7th Street and continue to the IH 20 Interchange. He said TxDOT would like to extend the six lanes into the southern portion of Jones County at a future date. Project 7) Direct Connect at IH 20 and SL 322, this project would be to construct the connection. Project 8) Intersection of US 84 N Frontage Rd. and Industrial Blvd., project to plan and implement changes to improve the intersection alignment. Mr. Haithcock moved to a Category 4U Proposed Project for a Bridge Replacement at SL 322 and Maple Street. This project would utilize TxDOT's Category 4 funding to tie the bridge into the project the City is proposing on Maple Street in both directions from this bridge. He then ended his presentation.

Ms. Smetana discussed each of the changes contained in the MTP Amendment. She provided detailed information and then discussed the summary of the MTP Amendment 5 that was before the Policy Board. She stated that the following changes were being suggested: cover page had a date change; updates to Chapter 7 Project Prioritization; Chapter 8 Financial Plan and Project Lists (Figure 46 Funded and Illustrative Projects Map; Table 33: Funded Projects Map and Table 34: Illustrative Projects; Figure 48: Illustrative Projects Map. Ms. Smetana provided details on Table 33: Funded Projects and she identified the TxDOT Projects in relation to the MTP: #1 – SL 322 – North of SH 36 to FM 1750 (MTP 2020-2045), #2 – FM 707 – US 83 to FM 1750 (MTP 2020-2045), #5 – SL 322 – IH 20 to SH 351 (MTP 2000-2025) and #6 – US 83 – S 7th to IH 20 (MTP 2000-2025 & MTP 2015-2040). Ms. Smetana moved her discussion to the new proposed projects: #3 – BU 83 and Pine Street – IH 20 to Ambler Ave., #4 – FM 89 – FM 707 to South MPO Limits, #7 – SL 322 – IH 20 EB to IH 20 WB and #8 – US 83 – FM 89 to Industrial Blvd. Ms. Smetana directed the board to Table 34: Illustrative Projects noting the bottom listing (SL 322). She explained this is where it shows that the project has been moved to Funded Projects. Ms. Smetana then moved to Table 24: Project Ranking and stated these do not have performance measures attached to them. She explained the MPO is waiting on TxDOT data: fatality rates and crash data to properly score and determine ranking. She stated the bottom project: SL 322 is in the MTP but the parameters/scope of the project will change so this requires the performance measures and ranking to be updated as soon as data is made available. Ms. Smetana displayed each of the changes and placement within the MTP. She shared that we received one public response concerning the amendment which pertained to the Direct Connect Ramps from SL 322 to I-20 (east and west bound) speaking of the need and safety this project will provide. Ms. Smetana reported that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at their November 28, 2023 meeting recommended approval to the Policy Board on incorporating all eight of the projects recommended by TxDOT into the MPOs planning documents including the FYs 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). She ended the presentation and said she would be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Price opened a Public Hearing on the Amendment to the FYs 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). No oral comments were received, the written comment was acknowledged. Chairman Price closed the Public Hearing.

Judge Crowley asked if the SL 322 Project would take Mr. Southward's suggestion (from the Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee Workshop on August 15, 2023) concerning the possibility of making a portion of the SL 322 access road a one-way. Mr. Allbritton said TxDOT will be considering his suggestion and many other possibilities. He noted this project will have public input and multiple open meetings to arrive at the best solution for all. Judge Crowley asked if a study would be done. Mr. Allbritton said a study was recently completed by Kimley-Horn but no projects were finalized at that time. Judge Spurgin shared that this location has been looked at and previously discussed, multiple times and although we have tried to advance it each time, a consensus has never been reached. Judge Spurgin referred to the packet, Figure 46: Funded and Illustrative Projects Map for the SL-322 which begins at BUS-80 and continues to FM 1750 and asked if the Intersection Study for SH 36 Study and SL 322 scope will be expanded to cover the area south of that location. Mr. Allbritton stated if TxDOT were to obtain funding and were able to add it to the upcoming UTP, then the schematic for the entire section would be acquired and phased to build as noted by Mr. Haithcock during his earlier deliberation. Judge Spurgin asked if the work at that intersection would be in consideration of what needs to be done as far as one-way frontage road south of that location. Mr. Allbritton stated it was.

Mr. Allbritton explained the reason TxDOT is proposing these projects now is because we are currently in the process of submitting projects for the upcoming Unified Transportation Program (UTP). He shared that projects must first be submitted and approved to receive placement in the MTP, before being added to the UTP. TxDOT could then begin working on them. Ms. Smetana said the SL 322 project currently listed in the MTP has been expanded by TxDOT, from north of SH 36 to FM 1750. No further questions were forthcoming. Chairman Price said he would entertain a motion.

Judge Spurgin made a *motion* to approve the amendment to the FYs 2020-2045 Metropolitan

Transportation Plan (MTP), with a *second* by Judge Crowley. *Motion carried (4-0)*.

5. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on an amendment to the MPO Ten-Year Plan.

Ms. Smetana discussed the history of the MPO Ten-Year Plan and noted the plan requires an update to reflect the changes and additions made to the MTP for the years 2024-2033. She said these are the same projects just discussed in the previous agenda item but they are grouped differently. The changes include an update to the IH-20 Project from FM 600 near Judge Ely Blvd. to SH 351; SL 322 from north of SH 36 to FM 1750 and IH-20 near Catclaw Creek to FM 600. The projects added to the plan include FM 89 (Buffalo Gap Rd.) from FM 707 to South MPO Limits and Business 83 and Pine Street from IH-20 to Amber Ave. Ms. Smetana noted the approval by the TAC at their November 28, 2023 meeting to recommended approval to the Policy Board on incorporating all eight of the projects recommended by TxDOT into the MPOs planning documents including the Ten-Year Plan as appropriate. Ms. Smetana ended the presentation and said she would be happy to answer any questions. No questions were forthcoming.

Chairman Price opened a Public Hearing for comments on the Amendment to the MPO Ten-Year Plan. No comments were received. Chairman Price closed the public hearing and stated he would entertain a motion to approve the amendment to the MPO Ten-Year Plan.

Mr. Albritton made a *motion* to approve the amendment to the MPO Ten-Year Plan with a *second* by Judge Spurgin. *Motion carried (4-0)*.

6. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion, and Take Action on an amendment to the FYs 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Ms. Smetana said the Transportation Planner position has been open since June 10, 2022. The MPO wishes to utilize the City of Abilene's GIS Consultant Contract. In order to accomplish this we need to amend the UPWP. Ms. Smetana listed the items to be amended: the cover page date; Subtask 2.1 Geographic Information System (GIS) and Data Development: adding "This task will use MPO staff and could include assistance from the City of Abilene and/or a consultant to complete."; update the Technical Advisory Committee Members; and update the Appendix G UPWP Amendment Summary. Ms. Smetana noted that the TAC at their November 28, 2023 meeting recommended approval to the Policy Board on the amendment to FYs 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). She ended her presentation and said she would be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Price asked if there were any questions. Hearing no questions, he said he would entertain a motion.

Mr. Allbritton made a *motion* to approve the amendment to the FYs 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), with a *second* by Judge Crowley. *Motion carried (4-0)*.

7. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion, and Take Action on the 2024 meeting dates.

Ms. Smetana listed the proposed MPO Policy Board dates for 2024: February 20, April 16, June 18, August 20, October 15, and December 17. She stated that this is an opportunity to change those dates that need to be adjusted to ensure that we have a quorum. The board was good with the dates as presented.

No Action Required.

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

Judge Crowley left the meeting at 1:58 pm.

TxDOT – Mr. Turentine began with 2024-2028 Planned Projects: Project #1: Traffic signal on S 14th Street from Sayles Blvd. to BU 83D, this is a continuation of previous completed improvements; Projects #2, #3 and #4 are grouped together with the Landfill Road Overpass. Project #2: US 83 - Construct a bridge .67 miles north of FM 3034 to .28 miles south of FM 3034; Project #3: FM 3034 - Widen Road /add shoulders from US 83 to near PR 343; Project #4: has MPO funds attached to it - FM 3034 - Rehabilitate existing roadway from Brick Rd. to FM 600, Project #5: SH 36 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements from BU 83D to FM 1750; Project #6: FM 18 - Overlay from SH 36 to Callahan County Line. Project #7: FM 2833 - Overlay from Jones County to SH 351; Project #8: FM 1082 - Widen road and add shoulders from CR 361 to FM 600; Project #9: IH 20 - Widen road add lanes and shoulders from Judge Ely Blvd. to SH 351; Project #10: FM 1082 - Overlay from FM 2833 to FM 3522; Project #11: SH 351 - Overlay from Abilene City Limits to Callahan County Line; Project #12: FM 1235 - Widen road and add shoulders from CR 306 to US 277; Project #13 IH 20 - Overlay from South Frontage Road near N Willis Street to near Catclaw Creek; Project #14: US 83 - Median Barrier –Concrete from 1300 feet north of Ambler Avenue to N 10th Street; Project #15: SL 322 - Median Barrier –Concrete from Lytle Creek to US 83; Project #16: FM 1750 - Intersection improvements with Turn Lanes from Industrial Blvd. to 1200’ south of Colony Hill Rd.; Project #17: US 277 - Rehabilitate Existing Roadway from south end of BNSF Bridge to 3.7 miles SW of FM 1235; Project #18: US 277 - Resurface roadway from US 83 to FM 3438; Project #19: US 277 - Overlay from FM 3438 to South end of BNSF Bridge; Project #20: FM 3438 - Install Illumination from IH 20 North Frontage Road to Near 5 Points Parkway; Project #21: FM 89 - Widen Road –add Lanes and Shoulders from 1.219 miles South of Elm Creek to Elm Creek; Project #22: SH 36 - Widen Road –add Lanes from CR 123 to Callahan County; Project # 23: IH 20 - Widen Road –add Lanes and Shoulders from SH 351 to Callahan County Line; and Project #24 FM 707 - Widen Road –add Lanes and Shoulders from FM 89 (Buffalo Gap Rd) to US 83.

Mr. Turentine discussed that the South 1st Street Illumination project has been completed. Current projects: Site #1: BI 20-R - Safety Improvement Project from Leggett Drive to Ross Avenue; Site #2: FM 89 - Rehabilitation of Existing Road near Bettles Lane to Rebecca Lane in Abilene; Site #3 FM 89 - Widen Non-Freeway from Rebecca Lane to just North of US 83; Site #4: IH 20 - Overlay from West of Old Anson Road to Callahan County Line; Site #5: IH 20 - Overlay from .75 mi. East of Hayter Road to West of Old Anson Road is approximately 9% complete; Site #6: IH 20 - Overlay from Near Wells Lane to .75 miles East of Hayter Road, this project is nearing completion; Site #7: ES 7th Street - Bridge Replacement at Cedar Creek is approximately 20% complete; Site #8: SL 322 - Safety Improvement Project from N 10th Street to Lytle Creek, Site #9: US 83 - Safety Improvement Project from Bus. 83 Interchange to 1300’ North of Amber Ave.; Site #10: US 83 - Safety Improvement Project from FM 707 to .25 miles North of FM 3034; Site #11: FM 1082 - New Location Non-Freeway from West of Cheyenne Creek Road to East of Dam, new bridge and road, project is 15% complete; and Site #12 BI 20-R - Safety Improvement Projects (Railroad) from Pioneer Drive to T&P Lane, on a delay start until June 2024. Site 13 # IH 20 - Preventative Maintenance from Nolan County Line to near Wells Lane, delay start until March 2024; Site #14: IH 20 - Preventative Maintenance from Nolan County Line to near Wells Lane new overlay, delay start until March 2024; Site #15: N 10th Street -Flashing Chevrons from Shelton Street to Kirkwood Street for the curve, delay start to procure material; and Site #16 Rebecca Lane – Flashing Chevrons from Peppergrass Lane to Milliron Ranch Road for the curve, delay start to procure material.

Judge Crowley re-entered the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

City of Abilene – Public Works - Mr. Chandler began his presentation by discussing Projects under Construction. He shared that Projects #1, #2, #3 and #11 are larger in nature and have been on-going. Project #1) Honey Bee Re-alignment has been delayed due to water relocation so it is 8% complete; Project #2) Maple (Carriage Hills to Loop 322) is 40% complete; Project #3) Five Points Roadway Improvements (Fulwiler Rd and Marigold St) is 80% complete; and Project #11) Festival District is 30% complete; Projects #4, #5, #6 and #10 are all nearing completion. Project #4) EN 10th Improvements, they are waiting on delivery of a rail for a pedestrian bridge (Judge Ely to 322 Loop);

Project #5) Pine St. @ N 10th St. Intersection, had been delayed for signal equipment but is now up and running and only lacks a few minor items to reach completion; Project #6) S 27th Improvements (South Danville to Barrow St); Project #10) N 14th St. @ Westwood Drive Intersection, a concrete intersection is reaching completion; Project #9) Wynrush Circle and Rio Mesa Drive Alley Resurfacing is nearing completion; Project #7) South 14th St Walkability Project (Sidewalks/Pedestrian Bridges), is a Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) project. Project will begin in January 2024; #8) Work Zone S13 Street Maintenance will begin in January 2024.

Mr. Chandler discussed Projects in Design. Project #2) South Willis St. @ South 7th St. Intersection, a Street Maintenance Project has been bid out for construct with construction to begin the first of the year. Project #3) S 27th Signal Improvements (Treadaway to Catclaw), a hybrid project due to the multiple previously completed improvements, so we are coordinating the signals along that corridor. They are in the process of pre-purchasing materials needed. Project #1) Maple (Loop 322 to ES 11th) is holding at 90% designed, they are working out some design issues with AEP and on pole relocations. Projects #4 and #6 will be the first two projects to come out in 2024: #4) Work Zone S5 (Canterbury Trails), Project #6) Work Zone S23 (Fairways); Project #5) Antilley @ Memorial Traffic Signal will be installed later in 2024. The survey and design has begun on this project; Mr. Chandler noted Projects #7, #8, #9, #10, #11 and #12 are projects that will roll out later in 2024: Project #7) Work Zone N6B (Pasadena Heights); Project #8) Work Zone S10A (West of Rose Park); Project #9) N. 18th St. Grape to Mockingbird(Includes N. 18th & Kirkwood intersection); Project #10) S. 7th St. (Danville to Pioneer); Project #11) Corsicana Ave. (S. 7th to Benbrook). Mr. Chandler finished his presentation.

Chairman Price asked when Cypress Street Project is expected to be placed on the list. Mr. Chandler said it has not been included as determination of the project schedule is currently being considered. He shared that they do have a set of construction drawings under review. Mr. Chandler stated although they do not currently have a set date, they are working to get one.

CityLink – Ms. Sisk reported that the in-service date for the two new 30 foot buses is pending due to the delivery and installation of the Automatic Vehicle Location/Computer-Aided Dispatch (AVL/CAD) system equipment. Ms. Sisk said the Bus Shelter Project will place eight new shelters with benches and trash receptacle throughout Abilene. These include the following locations: 1345 Barrow Street, 1709 Butternut Street, 1034 E.N. 10th Street, 2718 North 1st Street, 2160 Pine Street, 909 North Willis Street, 1250 Yeomans Road, and 3818 John Knox Drive. She stated that on the Micro Transit update: From the start of the program on August 28, 2023 to the last date Route #10 was in service, October 27, 2023; ZipZone completed 166 trips. She noted that during the timeframe of October 30, 2023 to November 30, 2023, trips increased by almost 50% with a total of 325 trips taken.

Chairman Price asked if it has been successful in the management aspect in relation to function. Ms. Sisk said it is, everyone is getting up to speed with the software and they are still offering assistance to patrons in many ways: to call, to book online or to pay with a credit card. We have been able to setup a few reoccurring trips. Chairman Price asked if we were looking at expanding the area. Ms. Sisk was unsure as they were still watching the growth and determining future planning that would benefit the City of Abilene.

9. Discussion and review of reports:

Ms. Smetana spoke on the following reports and noted that a complete copy is available in the packets.

Financial Status –Ms. Smetana discussed the FY 2023 report noting that all twelve billings are included. She said the carry-over funds were received on October 4, 2023, closing off the total allocation. Ms. Smetana noted the carry-over balance is larger than normal due to the staffing vacancies for approximately eighteen months. She said total authorization was \$564,810.50, with total expenditures of \$213,337.90 and the remaining balance was \$351,472.60. Ms. Smetana then discussed the FY 2024 report. She stated Work Order #1 was received on October 25, 2023 in the amount of \$69,591.60. No billings have been received, so the total balance is still \$69,591.60. No questions were asked.

Operation Report – Ms. Smetana spoke on the Operations Report. She began with the Travel Demand Model noting it was concluded on October 31, 2023 and TxDOT is currently performing an analysis to ensure the model is validated. The MPO and TxDOT are working on a time to present the report to the Policy Board and to the Technical Advisory Committee. Ms. Smetana moved to the budget, stating we were closed out all of the information for the previous year and we have begun the new fiscal year. She briefly spoke on a few of the many tasks completed by the MPO: reports, performance measures, budget, collaboration, meetings and projects.

Director's Report

- **MPO Staffing** - Ms. Smetana discussed the Transportation Planner position, open since June 10, 2022. She noted the job is posted on the City, Texas MPOs, Association of MPOs, Texas Municipal League (TML), and Strategic Government Resources (SGR) websites. Previously it was posted on the Handshake platform and information was given to Abilene Christian University, Hardin-Simmons, Texas State Technical College, McMurry, and Cisco College. Ms. Smetana stated we are looking at options in using the City's GIS contract until the position is filled.
- **Year-end Report – FY 2023 Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER)** – Ms. Smetana noted that each year the Annual Performance & Expenditure Report (APER) and Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP) are due by December 31st to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to ensure compliance. TxDOT requests that the reports be given to them by December 15th to allow time for their review. Staff is currently working on the 2023 APER for submission by the deadline. We are waiting on the highway information for the ALOP from TxDOT. We are in the process of receiving the transit information from the City, allowing for completion of this part.
- **Safety Plan** – Ms. Smetana stated that a new requirement for MPOs is to develop a Safety Action Plan. Currently there is funding for 23 MPO's at \$50,000 (\$1.2 million) out of the Federal State Planning and Research Funds (SPR) to develop a plan designed with local data and priorities. The MPOs are working with TxDOT and the Texas A & M Transportation Institute to get a plan in place. On November 8th we received notification from TxDOT that they are still working through the contract process. It is expected that the contract will be signed sometime in December and then TTI will kick-off the process.
- **Metropolitan Area Boundary (MAB) Expansion** - Ms. Smetana said we had our first TAC boundary subcommittee meeting on December 12, 2023. She noted that we reviewed the data compiled by AECOM (new consultants provided by TxDOT). The boundary options should be ready to present to the TAC at their January meeting, with Policy Board action to follow at their February meeting. The adjusted boundary will then be submitted to TxDOT and to the Governor for further action. Our hope is to have this completed in time to use for the MTP update due in December of 2024.
- **Travel Demand Model (TDM)** – Ms. Smetana noted all the tasks have currently been completed by the MPO, Ardurra, and TxDOT. The Travel Demand Model update was completed on October 31, 2023. TxDOT is in the process of validating the model. Once that is complete, we will be working with TxDOT to establish a time to present the model to the TAC and Policy Board.
- **FYs 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)** – Ms. Smetana stated the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is due on December 17, 2024 and it will cover the years 2025 to 2050. She stated that we will be reaching out for project solicitation from the

public very shortly and begin to compile data. A discussion will be had in the near future about a consultant.

- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Performance Measure** – Ms. Smetana explained this is a brand new performance measure due in 2024. TxDOT has until February 1, 2024 to establish measures for the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions. The MPO has 180 days after that to establish our own. She explained one of the things that is a little different is that FHWA said in the final rule: The MPOs cannot just accept TxDOTs' as we have done on the other performance measures. The Abilene MPO will be looking at creating our own performance measures. Ms. Smetana there is still some questions concerning the tailpipe emissions, and the difference between farm fuels and regular fuel. She stated the final rule additionally states this performance measure is for all urban areas. She explained that if an MPO has more than one urban area they have to compile all of those together and present them as one plan. Ms. Smetana stated that although the details are still a little unclear she wanted to bring this new requirement to their attention.

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

No comments received.

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

No comments received.

12. Adjournment.

With no further business, Chairman Price adjourned the meeting at 2:22 p.m.