



**MINUTES OF THE ABILENE METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD  
February 21, 2023**

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 21, 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  
Councilmember Shane Price, City of Abilene (Policy Board Chairman)  
Judge Dale Spurgin, Jones County

**Voting Member Absent:**

Mayor Anthony Williams, City of Abilene

**Staff of Member Agencies in Attendance:**

Mr. Chad Carter, P.E., TxDOT, Assistant Area Engineer  
Mr. Scott Chandler, P.E., City of Abilene, City Engineer  
Mr. Billy Dezern, TxDOT, Transportation Specialist  
Ms. Nellie Doneva, City of Abilene, Videographer  
Mr. Jeff Duebner, City of Abilene, Asst. Director of Public Works  
Mr. Max Johnson, City of Abilene, Director of Public Works  
Ms. Kelley Messer, City of Abilene, First Assistant City Attorney  
Ms. Lauren Stevens, CityLink, ParaTransit Supervisor  
Mr. Will Ratliff, City of Abilene, Engineer in Training  
Mr. Michael Rice, P.E., City of Abilene, Assistant City Manager

**MPO Staff in Attendance:**

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

**Others in Attendance:**

Mr. James Condry, Former CoA Public Works Administrator  
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 appearing on the agenda during the discussion of said item.

Chairman Price welcomed Judge Phil Crowley, the new Taylor County Judge to the Policy Board.

**2. Consideration and Take Action on the minutes of the December 13, 2022.**

Judge Spurgin made a *motion* to approve the December 13, 2022 meeting minutes as presented, with a *second* by Mr. Allbritton. *Motion carried (4-0)*

**3. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion, and Take Action on the Election of a Vice-Chair. (Unexpired Term through September 30, 2024)**

Chairman Price introduced the item and explained that with the retirement of Judge Bolls the MPO Vice-Chair became vacant. He asked for nominations from the Board to fill the unexpired term.

Mr. Allbritton made a *motion* to elect Judge Spurgin to the Vice-Chairman position, with a *second* by Judge Crowley. *Motion carried (4-0)*.

**4. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion, and Take Action on the FY 2023 Safety Performance Measure (PM1).**

Ms. Smetana discussed the annual Safety Performance Measure (PM1), due each February. She said the State sets their performance measures and MPOs have 180 days from the State's adoption to take action. The MPO's deadline to adopt the PM 1 targets is February 27, 2023.

Ms. Smetana noted a full detail of the data collected from TxDOT for the years 2019 into 2023 and a rolling five-year average, is contained in the packet. She additionally noted the inclusion of the resolution, and discussed each of the targets within the resolution. Ms. Smetana said this resolution would be using the TxDOT Safety Performance Measures with the five-year average rather than establishing our own performance measures. She noted TxDOT has established five targets for Safety Performance Measures based on a five-year average for: (1) Number of Fatalities, (2) Rate of Fatalities per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), (3) Number of Serious Injuries, (4) Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 Million VMT and (5) Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Non-Motorized Serious Injuries.

Ms. Smetana stated if approved this would be need to be updated in the later agenda item for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Judge Spurgin made a *motion* to approve the resolution, 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 FYs 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).**

Ms. Smetana discussed the MTP long-range plan which spans the years 2020 to 2045. She noted the MTP was originally approved on December 17, 2019, and subsequently amended on April 21, 2020, May 24, 2021 and December 14, 2021. Ms. Smetana explained a new amendment is needed to incorporate additional projects into the MTP and to adjust project scopes/costs. She noted the Technical Advisory Committee did recommend approval as presented during their February 7, 2023 meeting.

Ms. Smetana stated this is a projects only update and we will not be touching the entire document. She spoke on each of the changes/updates within the MTP. Ms. Smetana said the amendment did require a Public Notice that was publicized February 12, 2023 at the Abilene Reporter News. Ms. Smetana said some written comments were received pertaining to this amendment and those were provided to the Board.

Ms. Smetana proceeded to discuss the Project Ranking Table included in the packet. She stated items in red are proposed changes. She spoke on projects #13 and #13.5 explaining that ranking #13 originally crossed the Taylor/Jones county line. TxDOT requires two CSJs (Control Section Job numbers). Project #13 was split into #13 and #13.5. Project #13 is located in Taylor County and #13.5 is located in Jones County aligning us with TxDOT. Ms. Smetana identified the items in yellow as public comments received. Ms. Smetana thanked the public for their involvement and publically acknowledged Mr. Condry for his input.

Ms. Smetana addressed the I-20 Projects contained in the MTP. She explained there were five I-20 projects; in comparison, TxDOT had four projects that encompassed our five projects. The projects "From" and "To" fields were adjusted to align with TxDOT information. Project ranking #11 was obsolete, after these changes, so it was removed. She stated that the changes required the maps to be updated. She also noted Projects 11, 16 and E although listed in the report were not identified on the maps so this will be updated.

Ms. Smetana moved to Funded Projects. She noted the items in red are previously discussed updates and the items in blue are additions presented to the Technical Advisory Committee without the CSJs and Controlling Project ID #s (which were not yet available at the TAC Meeting). TAC was advised the CSJs would be added.

Ms. Smetana focused on the Illustrated Projects, she reiterating items in red are changes and the items in yellow are changes based on written public comments received after the packets were sent out. She said that a public comment was received on the Grouped Projects. It noted that funding from the "Previous Page" required updating to reflect additions and removals at project levels. This has been updated. Ms. Smetana ended her presentation noting she would be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Price asked for clarification, he noted some of the written comments received referred to the US 83 versus the US 83-84 designation. He asked if the board approves today would it still allow Ms. Smetana to make the changes discussed even though it is not reflected in the presentation. Ms. Smetana said that the motion could be worded to allow those changes.

Mr. Allbritton referred to the items in red under the total cost, noting they had changed/increased since the original MTP. Ms. Smetana confirmed they had and explained those are projected/estimate costs and might not reflect actual costs once the project is implemented.

Chairman Price opened a Public Hearing on Agenda Item #5 (*item was after Agenda #6*) for public comments: No comments were received so the Public Hearing was closed.

Chairman Price requested a motion. Judge Crowley made a *motion* to accept the report as presented, with a *second* by Judge Spurgin. *Motion carried (4-0)*.

Ms. Smetana asked for clarification that the approval vote did include the changes discussed. Chairman Price confirmed yes.

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

Ms. Smetana addressed the MPO Ten-Year Plan noting it has been amended numerous times. Ms. Smetana explained that as part of the process when changes are made to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) this requires the Ten-Year Plan to be updated. She noted that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at their February 7, 2023 meeting did recommended approval of the Ten-Year Plan as presented.

Ms. Smetana reiterated that the items in red are changes, items in blue are additions and items in yellow are public comments that were received for suggested clerical adjustments. She spoke on the years from 2023 to 2032 current projects, noting previously reviewed updates and changes. She gave a detail of each implemented adjustment. Ms. Smetana addressed future projects located at the bottom of the handout. She said the printout displays the full Ten-Year Plan noting it contained Previous Projects, the Projects that are underway and the Projects that are under the funded list in the MTP. She then ended the presentation and stated she would be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Price referred to the presentation screen: Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization, 10-Year Plan, he noted it contained two headings of FY 2031. Ms. Smetana reviewed and confirmed that the second column heading FY 2031 should be for FY 2032. Thanking Chairman Price she stated the clerical error would be fixed. Ms. Smetana noted at the bottom of the screen that the Unified Transportation Program (UTP) did contain the correct column headings FY 2023 to FY 2032 and amounts.

Judge Spurgin referred to the Agenda Item #5 where it states: Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and take Action. He questioned if the board had held a Public Hearing on Item #5 or on the current Item #6. Ms. Smetana confirmed that a Public Hearing on Agenda Items #5, #6 and #7 are required and no Public Hearing has been held on Item #5. Judge Spurgin suggested that at the completion of Agenda Item #6 we should move back to Item #5 and correct that oversight. Chairman Price concurred.

Chairman Price asked the board if there were any other questions. No questions. Chairman Price opened a Public Hearing on Agenda Item #6 for public comments: No comments were received so the Public Hearing was closed.

Chairman then opened a Public Hearing for Agenda Item #5 for public comment. No comments were received so the Public Hearing was closed.

Chairman Price requested a motion. Mr. Allbritton made a *motion* to approve as presented with that one correction, with a *second* by Judge Spurgin. *Motion carried (4-0)*.

Chairman Price requested confirmation from Ms. Messer that a new vote was not required for Agenda Item #5. Ms. Messer confirmed a re-vote was not required. She noted Agenda Item #1 stated that public comment would be taken on any item appearing on the agenda during the discussion of said item.

**7. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on an amendment to the FYs 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).**

Ms. Smetana gave a brief history of the Transportation Improvement Program: a draft was presented to the Policy Board on February 15, 2022. A Public Notice posted in the Abilene Reporter News on March 9, 2022 and noted public review was open until March 20, 2022. The Policy Board approved the TIP during the April 19, 2022 Policy Board Meeting. An administrative amendment was made on November 2, 2022. Ms. Smetana stated if approved this would be the second amendment to the original document.

Ms. Smetana noted a Public Notice was required for this amendment and was placed in the Abilene Reporter News on February 12, 2023. Ms. Smetana stated the TIP requires an amendment to adjust project scope, funding and the total project cost information. She stated the Technical Advisory Committee recommended approval to the Policy Board for the amendment to the FYs 2023-2026 TIP as presented during their February 7, 2023 meeting.

Ms. Smetana discussed each change that is being made. She noted the Grouped Projects CSJs did not change. Ms. Smetana said an update to Attachment A would be required to reflect the new Safety Performance Measure (PM 1) previously approved under Agenda Item #4. She stated changes in Appendix B: History of the TIP and TIP Amendments will be adjusted with the addition of the amendment. Ms. Smetana then added that this item does require a public hearing.

Chairman Price opened a public hearing on the TIP. Hearing no public comments, he closed the public hearing.

Judge Crowley made a *motion* to accept the report as presented, with a *second* by Mr. Allbritton. *Motion carried (4-0)*.

**8. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion, and Take Action on the FY 2022 Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER).**

Ms. Smetana said the Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER) and the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP) are due by December 31<sup>st</sup> to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to ensure compliance. TxDOT requests that the reports

be given to them by December 15<sup>th</sup>, allowing time for review. Ms. Smetana stated this report requires Federal approval prior to publication. She said that the APER was submitted to TxDOT on December 15, 2022, approved by TxDOT on December 19, 2022 and the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration accepted the report on January 03, 2023. Ms. Smetana said the Technical Advisory Board recognized the FY 2022 Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER) as presented at their February 7, 2023 meeting.

Ms. Smetana shared some highlights from the report including a few of the meetings, projects, planning, and events the MPO has actively participated in and noted a complete listing is available in the packet.

Ms. Smetana presented the Budget Summary and detailed the percent of expenditures under 75% or over 125%, which requires an explanation as to why. She stated that Tasks #2 and #4 were due to staffing shortage; Task #5.1 (Loop Study) began later than anticipated in FY 2023; Task #5.2 (Boundary Expansion) was initiated in-house with the Texas A & M Transportation Institute and TXDOT's assistance rather than hiring a consultant; and Task #5.3 (Multimodal Facility) started late. Ms. Smetana ended her presentation and stated she would be happy to answer any questions. She noted the action on this agenda item is for recognition or acceptance of the report.

Judge Spurgin made a *motion* to accept the report, with a *second* by Mr. Allbritton. *Motion carried (4-0)*.

## 9. Discussion and review of transportation projects.

(TxDOT Staff, City Staff, CityLink Staff)

**TxDOT** - Mr. Carter spoke on the following projects: **Projects #1, #2 and #10** would be combined. **Project #1** US 83 construct a bridge from .67 miles north of FM 3034 to .28 miles south of FM 3034; **Project #2** FM 3034 widen the road and construct shoulders from US 83 to FM 600; and **Project #10** FM 3034 rehabilitate existing roadway from Brick Road to FM 600. **Project #3** FM 1082 to construct a new road from west of Cheyenne Creek Road to East of Dam is more of a realignment, taking the road off of Fort Phantom Dam and rerouting it to just north of the dam. **Project #4** US 277 rehabilitate/repaving existing roadway from south end of BNSF Bridge to 3.7 miles Southwest of FM 1235 has an expected 2026 let date. **Project #5** FM 707 widen road – add lanes and shoulders from FM 89 (Buffalo Gap Rd) to US 83 has an expected 2025 let date. **Project #6** FM 1082 widen road and shoulders from CR 361 to FM 600 has an expected let date of 2026. **Project #7** FM 605 Surfacing/Roadway Restoration from FM 2404 to US 83 has an expected let date of 2026. **Project #8** SH 36 (South 11<sup>th</sup> Street) Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements from BU 83D (Treadaway Blvd.) to FM 1750 (Oldham Lane). **Project #9** TXDOT has been working with the City of Abilene on a bridge replacement on ES 7<sup>th</sup> St at Cedar Creek was let in 2023. **Project #11** IH 20 widen road – add lanes and shoulders from Judge Ely Blvd. to SH 351 has an expected let date of 2026. **Project #12** IH 20 Preventive Maintenance from near Wells Lane to .75 miles east of Hayter Road is currently out to bid.

Mr. Carter listed the Median Barrier Projects: **Project #13** SL 322 from EN 10<sup>th</sup> St. to Lytle Creek; **Project #14** US 83 from FM 707 to .25 mile north of FM 3034; **Project #15** SL 322 from Lytle Creek to US 83; **Project #16** US 83 from Bus 83 Interchange to 1300 feet north of Ambler Ave.; and **Project #17** US 83 from 1300 Feet north of Ambler Ave. to North 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Carter continued with **Project #18** FM 1750 Intersection Improvements with turn lanes from Industrial Blvd. to 1200 feet south of Colony Hill Rd. Mr. Carter said these projects would be out to bid in 2023 or 2024.

Mr. Carter spoke on Current/Under Construct projects, noting there are five sites but only three projects: **Project #1** BI 20-R Safety Improvement Project (Illumination) from Leggett Dr. to Ross Ave. is approaching start (some delays due to material procurement). Combining **Projects #2 and #3**: **Project #2** FM 89 (Buffalo Gap Road) Rehabilitation of Existing Road from Near Bettes Lane to Rebecca Lane and **Project #3** FM 89 (Buffalo Gap Road) widen non-freeway from Rebecca Lane to just north of US 83 they are in the process of constructing concrete paving and storm drains. Combining **Projects #4**

**and #5: Project #4** IH 20 Overlay from West of Old Anson Road to Callahan County Line and **Project #5** IH 20 Overlay from .75 miles East of Hayter Road to West of Old Anson Road they are currently working on the guard fence and then will be returning to pave in March.

**City of Abilene** – Mr. Chandler spoke on the projects currently under construction: **#1)** Honeybee Realignment at Lake Fort Phantom and **#2)** Maple Street (Carriage Hills to SL 322) are both about to begin. **#3)** N 6th St at Cypress Street anticipated finish with the opening of the hotel. **#4)** EN 10th Street from Treadaway to Judge Ely Blvd. is nearing completion; Judge Ely Blvd. to SL 322 will bid soon with construction underway this summer. **#5)** The Five Points Roadway Improvements Project including the relocation of Marigold Street and the improvements to Fulwiler Road is under construction. Mr. Chandler noted the addition of **#6) Work Zones N2A & N2B** and **#7) Work Zone S11B** to the current projects.

Mr. Chandler spoke on Projects Under-Design: **#1) Work Zone 59C** 100% complete. **#2 & #3) Work Zones S5 and S13** will bid in late June/July 2023 for a Fall paving. **#4)** EN 10th St. (Judge Ely Blvd to SL 322) Project is 100% designed. **#5)** North 5th St. two-way conversion project is 100% designed and a contract preparation to advertise is in process. **#6)** Maple (Loop 322 to ES 11<sup>th</sup>) is 10% designed. **#7)** South Willis St. at South 7th St. 0% designed. **#8)** Pine St. at North 10th St. 50% designed. **#9)** North 18th Street at Kirkwood St. 50% designed. **#10)** North 14th St. at Westwood Dr. 0% designed. **#11)** South 14th Street Walkability Project, the design will begin soon and the project will be bid in May 2023. **#12)** South 27th Improvements Project (Barrow St. to Danville Dr.) is 40% designed and set to bid in January 2023.

**CityLink** - Ms. Stevens discussed the micro transit pilot program - ZipZone, explaining it will be located in the northwest portion of the city. She said that CityLink has held three public meeting at the North Mockingbird Public Library this month with a fourth scheduled on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Attendance was twenty-four which is a good turn-out. Ms. Stevens noted ZipZone would launch at the end of February 2023.

Ms. Steven gave an update on the two large (30-foot) buses scheduled for delivery in April 2023 that have been delayed. The new projected delivery date is late summer 2023.

## 10. Discussion and review of reports:

Ms. Smetana spoke on the following reports, noting a complete detail is available in the packets.

**Financial Status** – Ms. Smetana discussed that carryover funding has not been received at this time. She stated that total authorization remained \$204,468.77 with expenditures of \$64,204.17, and a remaining balance of \$140,264.60. No questions were asked.

**Operation Report** – Ms. Smetana noted the full Operations Report was available in the packets. She then preceded to give a few examples of the work accomplished under tasks, training sessions, and meetings.

**Director's Report** – Ms. Smetana noted the full report was available in the packets. She discussed some about each of the following work tasks.

- **MPO Staffing** – Ms. Smetana noted the Transportation Planner position has been open since June 10, 2022. Interviews have been conducted.
- **Year-end Reports – Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP)**  
Discussed previously, TXDOT is in process of preparing information for the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects and once received we will prepare the report.
- **Comprehensive Transportation Corridor Study: Loop 322/SH 36 (Traffic Impact Analysis) Update.** The Policy Board approved the report from Kimley Horn on November 13, 2022. Administrative corrections were made and the final report was received on

January 24, 2023. The Travel Demand Update (conducted as part of the study) has been submitted to TXDOT for incorporation into the new forecasting model we are currently working on.

- **Public Participation Plan Update** - Requires an update to capture virtual meetings in addition to miscellaneous changes to the current public participation activities.
- **Abilene Area Safety Plan** - This is a new requirement for the MPO to develop a Safety Action Plan. There is currently funding for 23 MPO out of the Federal State Planning and Research Funds (SPR) to develop a plan designed with local data and priorities. The plan will be due sometime in May 2023. The funding will have to be included in an amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).
- **Travel Demand Model**  
The MPO is working with TXDOT and others to update the Travel Demand Model (TDM). Currently there are 461 Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ) in the Abilene TDM. Staff provided comments back to TXDOT on January 13, 2023 for the population and households for each of those TAZ areas. The MPO is currently working towards providing TXDOT with information on the employment data broken down for each TAZ.
- **Census 2020 Urban Area Designations** - The Federal Register came out for the 2020 Census Qualifying Urban Areas (UA) and the First Criteria Clarifications on December 29, 2022. Staff is working on pulling maps into the 2010 UA to identify what changes might affect our area. We are awaiting the Census designated boundary maps to be released.

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

No comments received.

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

Ms. Smetana asked about having an August 2023 workshop. The board agreed that August would be fine. Chairman Price stated the Workshop would be helpful especially as we will have two new Policy Board Members, Judge Crowley and the newly elected Mayor. Chairman Price noted Ms. Smetana would need to reserve the Library for the Workshop.

**13. Adjournment.**

With no further business, Chairman Price adjourned the meeting at 2:16 p.m.