



**MINUTES OF THE ABILENE METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
April 16, 2024**

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 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
 Mayor Weldon Hurt, City of Abilene
 Councilmember Shane Price, City of Abilene (*Policy Board Chairman*)
 Judge Dale Spurgin, Jones County (*Policy Board Vice-Chairman*)

Voting Members Absent

Judge Phil Crowley, Taylor County

Staff of Member Agencies in Attendance:

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
 Mr. Michael Rice, City of Abilene, Assistant City Manager
 Mr. Will Ratliff, City of Abilene, Engineering
 Mr. Stanley Smith, City of Abilene, City Attorney
 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:

Councilmember John Cash, City Council, Lawn, TX
 Mr. James Condry, Abilene, Citizen
 Ms. Kaitlin Eubanks, Callahan County
 Mr. Matt Genova, AECOM, Transportation Planner
 Ms. Shannon Hawkins, TxDOT, MPO Coordinator
 Ms. Krystal Lastrape, FHWA, Transportation
 Commissioner Ashley McGowen, Callahan County
 Ms. Akane Thaxton, Development Corporation of Abilene
 Mr. Babatunde Tugbobo, TxDOT. Community Planner

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 February 20, 2024 meeting.

Chairman Price noted he submitted a couple of corrections.

Mayor Hurt made a *motion* to *approve* the minutes of the February 20, 2024 meeting with the corrections, with a *second* by Judge Spurgin. *Motion Carried (4-0)*.

3. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion, and Take Action on the Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary Expansion.

Ms. Smetana introduced Mr. Genova, a Transportation Planner for AECOM who will be discussing the current standing of the Draft Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary Expansion. Mr. Genova discussed the project goals and the desire to engage stakeholders in the new boundary delineation. He provided a brief review of the discussions addressed in the February 20, 2024 Policy Board Meeting. Mr. Genova stated that several steps have been taken since that meeting: Conducted local stakeholder engagement to explain proposed changes and assess support; developed responses to initial Policy Board questions and concerns - Callahan Divide options, changes to MPO's Category 2 funding, and changes to TAC and Policy Board representation; revised boundary to accommodate changes based on Policy Board and local stakeholder feedback; and presented revised draft boundary to TAC for approval at March 26th meeting.

Mr. Genova presented the Revised Draft Boundary Map for the Policy Board Consideration. He identified the changes: 1) The South-Eastern portion of the map was expanded out to the Hwy 36 area to include the growth occurring around Hwy 36. Mr. Genova stated this expansion to Hwy 36 was suggested and supported by the stakeholders. 2) Anson was removed from the North-Western Boundary due to the Anson community feeling it was too early to make it a priority at this time. Mr. Genova then discussed why the request to remove the Callahan Divide was not addressed. He stated there are no clear geographic landmarks in the area to follow which would allow the boundary to be adjusted to remove only the Callahan Divide. Mr. Genova then spoke on the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) and Revised Draft Boundary comparison; before discussing the Category 2 Funding Formula and its components. He noted that several formula factors will increase with the revised boundary, especially: population, vehicles miles traveled (on- and off-system, truck) and roadway miles (centerline, lane). Mr. Genova stated it is difficult to estimate the boundary's impact on MPO funding given the following: ongoing changes to other MPO boundaries in Texas; ongoing establishment of new MPOs in Texas including the new Eagle Pass MPO; and current demographic and travel/system data being developed for TxDOT's forthcoming model. Mr. Genova noted he would not be discussing MPO Board Representation as the next agenda item covers updating the MPO by-laws.

Mr. Genova shared the Key Takeaways:

- TAC expressed broad support for the draft boundary as drawn at their March 26th meeting.
- Options to remove Callahan Divide are limited and do not follow clear landmarks.
- The draft boundary adjusts the northern extent to remove Anson and includes slight changes around Highway 36 in the southeast corner of the region.
- Determining how region's funding would change based on TX Dot's formula is difficult without knowing other statewide population and MPO boundary changes.
- Policy Board would expand to include seat for Callahan County.
- TAC would expand to include seats for Callahan County and municipal seats for new

cities within boundary (Buffalo Gap, Clyde, Hawley, Lawn, Merkel, and Tuscola).

Mr. Genova listed the next steps: Vote on draft boundary as presented today; vote on draft changes to MPO by-laws; finalize engagement with local stakeholders; compile summary of process into technical memo; and finally submit memo, boundary map, support letters, and other materials to TxDOT and Governor's Office for approval. He stated that the next action is to discuss the draft boundary and address remaining questions; and vote on draft boundary as presented today. Mr. Genova ended his presentation and opened the floor to the Policy Board for questions. No questions were forthcoming. Ms. Smetana noted there was a Resolution included in the packet and as part of the motion we would like that Resolution approved for inclusion into the Boundary Expansion Request.

Chairman Price opened a Public Hearing. No comments were received.

Chairman Price requested confirmation that the resolution affirming the draft boundary expansion would go from the Policy Board to TxDOT before being delivered to the Governor's Office for final approval before coming back to the Policy Board for the By-Law changes. Ms. Smetana concurred, then noted we have been presenting to all of the affected municipalities except for Lawn as their City Council Meeting was moved to April 23, 2024 and we will present to them at that time.

Mr. Albritton a *motion* to *approve* the Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary Expansion, as presented with a *second* by Judge Spurgin. *Motion carried (4-0)*.

4. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on the MPO By-Laws.

Ms. Smetana stated that included in the packet is the proposed changes to the By-Laws. She discussed each change and addition: cover page date; added Section 7.07 Meetings; added to the Policy Board: Callahan County Judge and State Senator District 10 and US Representative District 25; removed State Senate District 24 due to redistricting; added to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC): Callahan County Commissioner or designee; added Cities of Buffalo Gap, Clyde, Hawley, Lawn, Merkel, and Tuscola (Mayor or designee); added TxDOT Director of Maintenance or designee (from split of TxDOT Director of Operations and Maintenance); possible removal of City of Tye Public Works Director or designee (to ensure equality of incoming cities); changed quorum from seven to eight members and changed other agencies from one to two; added Section 7.07 Meetings (to add virtual option and way to call a meeting) and added dates amended (for tracking purposes). Ms. Smetana shared the action requested is: Any suggestion or changes; and approval of the draft amendment to the MPO By-Laws. Ms. Smetana explained the By-Laws are being presented as a draft version. The Governor of the State of Texas has to approve the MPO Planning Area Boundary changes and then the By-Laws will be presented back to the Policy Board for final approval. This agenda item is just to show the changes proposed and get an approval/acknowledgement on the draft to send in with the packet to the Governor. Ms. Smetana ended her presentation stating she would be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Price addressed the Policy Board and stated that with the Bylaws change the Policy Board would be go from five voting members to six, an even number. He asked if the board had an issue with having an even number and if so would they like to add a seventh member. Mayor Hurt stated the Policy Board almost always has a unanimous vote and if we do not then we have a further discussion. He did not see a need to add a seventh member. Judge Spurgin

stated he was comfortable with six. The conclusion was no objections to six Policy Board members. Chairman Price said, currently the Policy Board is required to have a core three members for quorum, but once raised to six member the core will need to be changed to four members. Ms. Smetana noted the directive to raise the core Policy Board members to four members. Chairman Price asked the boards' opinion on removing one of the two TAC seats for Tye. Judge Spurgin asked if the Tye City Council had any objections. Ms. Smetana stated she discussed the possibility of removing the Tye Public Works Director as one seat would be fair to the proposed new MPO municipalities. There was no oppositions raised. She noted the Tye City Council approved a council action to appoint Mr. Cody Ellis, from the Tye Economic Development Corporation as the designee in the event of the absence of the Mayor of Tye for the TAC Meetings.

Chairman Price opened a Public Hearing for comments. No suggestions or comments were forthcoming. He stated he would entertain a motion to approve the draft changes to the MPO Bylaws pending approval by the Governor of the MPO Boundary Expansion.

Mayor Hurt made a *motion* to *approve* the Draft Changes to the MPO By-Laws pending approval by the Governor of the MPO Boundary Expansion, with a *second* by Mr. Albritton. *Motion carried (4-0)*.

5. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on projects for the Carbon Reduction Program.

Ms. Smetana stated that included in the packet is information concerning the Carbon Reduction Program. She explained that TxDOT received word in February that they must have the FY 2025 Carbon Reduction Project programmed by May 2024. Ms. Smetana discussed the Category 10 – 2025 UTP Estimates for Fiscal Years 2025 to FY 2034. She explained that we can allocate up to four years of funding FYs: 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028. Ms. Smetana stated the Project Selection Committee met on March 8, 2024 and discussed numerous ideas. One of them was Military Drive to US 277 as a shared use path. She said they evaluated the entire corridor on Dub Wright Blvd. (Arnold Blvd. / FM 3438) from US-277 to IH-20 and decided an asphalt shared use pathway would be a good project. So she is suggesting for the 1st Phase – Military Drive to US 277 as a shared use path with a total proposed project cost of \$1,720,923 (2025-2028 UTP estimates). The TAC at their March 26, 2024 meeting recommended approval of the project for the Carbon Reduction Program as presented. Ms. Smetana ended her proposal stating she is requesting any suggestion or changes and/or approval of the projects for the Carbon Reduction Program.

Chairman Price requested Ms. Smetana describe what comprises a shared use path. She said it would be similar to a sidewalk but wider for pedestrian and bicycle use, off the road, and could be constructed with a variety of different types of material (concrete, asphalt, gravel). Mr. Albritton said it would require more discussion in determination of how far the limits may be, the figures are in line with asphalt but asphalt requires more maintenance than concrete.

Ms. Smetana discussed the complications of the May deadline: TxDOT must have the project approved by Federal Highways (FHWA) prior to a control section job (CSJ) number being assigned. She stated in order to include it in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) by May we are proceeding in this manner. She stated if this item is approved it will be shown in the next agenda item in the TIP.

Chairman Price referred to the existing shared-use path along Texas Avenue that stops just short of connecting to the newly planned path, he asked if the city would be able to finish that small segment? Ms. Smetana noted multiple projects in the area but yes there is a segment on Texas Avenue that will need to be connected, there is also the issue that Texas Avenue does not currently have a signal. No signal creates difficulty for pedestrians and cyclist to cross the roadway and connect with the sidewalk addition along Texas Avenue. Chairman Price asked if we knew if it would be located on the west side of the street. Ms. Smetana stated they are still evaluating that and it would be part of the planning process. Chairman Price said if it is the east side of the road they would not have to cross the road. Ms. Smetana concurred and added it could cross the street on one of the available signalized intersections depending on right-of-way.

Ms. Smetana added that the previous funding for FY 2022, FY 2023 and FY 2024 were assigned to the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) for the installation of cameras and digital roadway signs. This project would be for the next four years from FY 2025-2028.

Mayor Hurt referred to ongoing cost and asked if there would be an opportunity for us to look at construction cost and possibly shortening the distance? Ms. Smetana stated that yes that was a possibility. Ms. Smetana added that there may be additional funding sources that could be used also. Chairman Price stated if we are forced to shorten the distance then we need to be sure we keep the path connected to Dyess AFB main gate. Judge Spurgin agreed with Chairman Price and noted he believes we have received public comment on that and on this program. The Chairman noted Dyess AFB has requested more connectivity with the city. Ms. Smetana concurred and stated this is Phase 1 and the other phase runs to Military Drive from IH 20 and TxDOT is looking at sidewalks along IH-20 which would make another connection to the path that leads up to there.

Judge Spurgin made a *motion* to *approve* the projects for the Carbon Reduction Program, with a *second* by Mayor Hurt. *Motion carried (4-0)*.

6. 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 advised that this is Amendment Five to the current TIP. The amendment will update the transit worksheets costs and funding information. The project was submitted for public review from Monday, April 5 to 8:00 a.m. on April 15, 2024. This agenda item requires a Public Hearing. Ms. Smetana identified and discussed each of the updates: Cover Page; Table of Contents; Transit Project Pages (FY 2023, 2024, 2025) no changes to FY 2026; Transit Financial Summary; History of the TIP and TIP Amendments; and Performance Measure (PM 1) – Safety. On March 26, 2024 during their meeting the TAC recommended approval of the amendment to the FYs 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as presented. Ms. Smetana stated there will be an addition made under the Appendix B: History of the TIP and TIP Amendments if the Policy Board votes to approve that will list any public comments we receive.

Chairman Price called for a Public Hearing. No comments were received.

Mr. Allbritton made a *motion* to *approve* an amendment to the FYs 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), with a *second* by Mayor Hurt. *Motion carried (4-0)*.

7. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on the FYs 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Ms. Smetana stated the FY 2025-2028 TIP is due by June 18, 2024 into the Electronic Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (ESTIP) portal. She stated that the document was submitted for public review from April 5, 2024 until 8:00 a.m. on April 15, 2024, and noted a Public Hearing is required during today's meeting. Ms. Smetana identified and discussed each of the changes/additions. She stated that the FY 2025 Transit Project Funding, discussed in the previous TIP was transferred over to the new TIP and the following years (FY 2026, FY 2027 and FY 2028) were transferred over using the same FY 2025 funding. We will do an amendment to update the numbers when updated project data becomes available. She stated that there are also updates to the all Performance Measures to correspond to projects; and added Appendix E: Listing of Grouped Projects. Ms. Smetana provided a recap of changes to the document: Cover Page (*date to be changed*); Public Participation Process (*updated after meeting*); Funded Highway Projects Map (*future*); and History of the TIP and TIP Amendments (*date to be changed*). Ms. Smetana noted the TAC recommended approval of the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as presented at their March 26, 2024 Meeting. She asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Albritton inquired if we will do a new Amendment to the TIP if/when the new Boundary Expansion is approved. Ms. Smetana stated yes, we may have to do an amendment to this new TIP and to the previous TIP depending on the timing of approvals.

Chairman Price opened a Public Hearing. No comments were forthcoming. Chairman Price closed the Public Hearing and requested a motion.

Judge Spurgin made a *motion* to *approve* the FYs 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), with a *second* by Mr. Allbritton. *Motion carried (4-0)*.

8. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion, and Take Action on Authorizing a Professional Services Contract with Huitt-Zollars, Inc for the FYs 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Ms. Smetana stated that included in the packet is the contract with Huitt Zollars, Inc., which is for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) that is due on December 17, 2024. The MTP will cover FY 2025 through FY 2050. She shared that the Request For Proposals (RFP) for consulting firm was placed in the Abilene Reporter News on March 10th and on March 17th, 2024. The RFP originally closed March 26th at 2:00 p.m. but it was extended until April 5th, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Huitt Zollars, Inc. was the consultant who met the qualifications. This will go before the City Council meeting at their April 25th, 2024 meeting as the city is the fiscal agent.

Ms. Smetana referred to the Scope of Work for the MTP. She discussed the Scope of Work and each of the six tasks required of the consultants. She stated that the MTP Selection Committee met on April 8, 2024 and that this would be a professional services contract with Huitt Zollars, Inc. for a fixed amount of \$150,000. She said that the the MTP is due on December 17, 2024 so that would be the contract conclusion also. The project is funded through Metropolitan Planning Organization funds FYs 2024 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Task 4.1 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Ms. Smetana noted there was no action from the Technical Advisory Committee - only a discussion at their March 26, 2024 meeting. She stated the action requested is authorizing a Professional Services Contract

with Huitt Zollars, Inc. for the FYs 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the fixed amount of \$150,000 and a resolution to move it forward to the City Council.

Chairman Price asked if a motion would cover both the contract and the resolution. Ms. Smetana stated it would. No further question were asked by the board.

Mayor Hurt made a *motion* to *approve* the authorization of a Professional Services Contract with Huitt-Zollars, Inc for the FYs 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) along with the resolution 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. Turentine noted this is Work Zone Awareness Week 2024. This is a request to all drivers to slow down and be aware of workers within work zones. He then discussed the Planned Projects: 1) SH 36 - Super-2 highway from CR 123 to Callahan County; 2) FM 18 - Rehabilitating the Existing Roadway from SH 36 to Callahan County Line; 3) SL 322 - Install Intelligent Vehicle Highway System at various locations within the Abilene MPO Boundary (Carbon Reduction Plan); 4) FM 1750 - Intersection improvements w/ right or left turn lanes; 5) SH 36 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements from BU 83D to FM 1750; 6) 14th Street - Traffic Signal Improvements from Sayles Blvd. to BU 83D; 7) FM 89 - Widen Road, add turn lanes and shoulders from 1.219 miles south of Elm Creek to Elm Creek; 8) US 277 - Resurface Roadway from US 83 to FM 3438; 9) FM 1235 - Widen Road and Add Shoulders from CR 306 to US 277; 10) FM 3438 - Install Illuminations from IH 20 North Frontage Road to Near 5 Points Parkway; 11) US 83 - Hazard Illumination & Safety from 1300 Feet North of Ambler Ave. to North 10th St.; 12) IH 20 - Preventative Maintenance from South Frontage Rd. Near North Willis St. to Near Catclaw Creek. 13) US 83 - Widen Road and Add Shoulders from 1.0 miles North of FM 3034 to Taylor County Line; 14) FM 3034 - Widen Road and Add Shoulders from Near PR 343 to FM 600; 15) FM 1082 - Widen Road and Add Shoulders from FM 1226 to FM 600; 16) FM 1082 - Surfacing/Roadway Restoration from East of Dam to FM 3522; 17) FM 2833 - Rehabilitate Existing Roadway from Jones County to SH 351; 18) IH 20 - Widen Freeway from FM 600 to SH 351; and 19) SH 351 - Rehabilitate Existing Roadway from Abilene City Limits to Callahan County Line.

Mr. Turentine then discussed the Current Construction: 1) SL 322 - Hazard Elimination & Safety from North 10th Street to Lytle Creek; 2) This has been moved to Project #8; 3) 7th Street - Bridge Replacement at Cedar Creek; 4) BI 20-R - Safety Improvement Projects (Railroad) from Pioneer Drive to T&P Lane; 5) North 10 Street - Flashing Chevrons from Shelton Street to Kirkwood Street; 6) FM 89 - Widen road, add Turning Lanes from Near Bettles Lane to just North of US 83; 7) Rebecca Lane - Flashing Chevrons from Peppergrass Lane to Millron Ranch Road, 8) US 277 - Preventive Maintenance from south end of BNSF Bridge to 3.7 miles Southwest of FM 1235; 9) IH 20 - Preventive Maintenance from Nolan County Line to Near Wells Lane (WB); 10) US 83 - Hazard Elimination & Safety from Bus 83 Interchange to 1300' North of Ambler Avenue; 11) US 83 - Hazard Elimination & Safety from FM 707 to 0.25 mi North of FM 3034; 12) FM 1082 - Construct New Road.

Mr. Turentine noted that the Current Construction items #1, #10 and #11 are part of the State Highway Improvement Project (SHIP) and includes multiple locations of adding concrete and cable barriers.

Mayor Hurt asked for an estimated completion date for the new road around the dam #12. Mr. Turentine stated that he believes the completion date will be pushed back until early 2025 due to American Electric Power (AEP) adjusting some of their work which is conflicting with our schedule.

City of Abilene – Public Works – Mr. Johnson said that Mr. Chandler, City of Abilene City Engineer has departed his position. Mr. Johnson then introduced Mr. Ratliff who would be providing the updates.

Mr. Ratliff began his presentation by discussing Projects Under Construction: #1) Honey Bee Re-alignment is moving forward; #2) Maple (Carriage Hills to Loop 322) is moving forward; Projects #3, #4, #5, #6 and #8 are all moving towards completion: #3) Five Points Roadway; #4 EN 10th Improvements (Judge Ely to 322 Loop); #5 Pine St. @ N 10th St. Intersection; #6 S 27th Improvements (S Danville to Barrow St); #8 Work Zone S13 (Baker Heights); #7 S 14th St Walkability Project (Sidewalks/Pedestrian Bridges) is moving forward; #9 the Festival District; #10 S Willis St. @ S 7th St. Intersection; #11 S 27th Signal Improvements (Treadaway to Catclaw) has not started; #12 Work Zone S5 (Canterbury Trales); #13 Cypress Street Reconstruction (currently street closures on North 4th Street and Cypress Street; #14 Pebble Beach Drainage Pipe Repair, they are awaiting the final contract; #15 Belmont Repair, is entirely complete; #16 Antilley and Memorial Traffic Signal Improvements; and #17 Work Zone S23 (Fairways) are both in contract.

Mr. Ratliff then discussed the Projects in Design: 1A) Maple (S. 27th to ES 11th); 1B) Maple (Loop 322 to S. 27th); 2) Work Zone N6B (Pasadena Heights); 3) Work Zone S10A (West of Rose Park); 4) N. 18th St. Grape to Mockingbird (Includes N. 18th & Kirkwood intersection); 5) S. 7th St. (Danville to Pioneer); 6) Corsicana Ave. (S. 7th to Benbrook); and 7) Andy Street Culvert.

CityLink – No updates at this time.

10. Discussion and review of reports:

Ms. Smetana discussed the following reports, noting the full report is available in the packets.

Financial Status – Ms. Smetana referred to the December 2023 and January 2024 Billings contained in the packet. She noted we have only received one work order from TxDOT, additionally we have not received our carryover or any additional authorizations. She stated she previously sent an email to TxDOT in February and she followed up again last week. Ms. Smetana shared that TxDOT said they were waiting on Federal Highways to provide approval and once received they will release those funds. She noted that we are down to \$2,934.80 available funds. Mr. Tindall (Metropolitan Planning Branch Manager, TxDOT–TPP) instructed us to continue and to submit bills when received and TxDOT will pay them.

Operation Report – Ms. Smetana stated the full document was available in the packet. She discussed a few of the many tasks completed by the Abilene MPO from February 10, 2024 until April 9, 2024. She noted a substantial amount of time was spent working on reports, organizing, confirming, preparing and traveling back and forth to numerous locations to attend meetings and giving presentations in relation to the Boundary Expansion while completing the MPO normal tasks.

Director's Report

Ms. Smetana requested permission to introduce two of the representatives from Federal Highways and one representative from TxDOT who were in attendance at today's meeting. Chairman Price agreed and asked Ms. Smetana to introduce our guests. Ms. Smetana presented Ms. Lastrape, Ms. Lastrape greet the Policy Board and stated she is the FHWA Texas Division Planner and was previously the Abilene MPO Transportation Planner. She stated Mr. Tugbobo, FHWA, Transportation Planner would now be responsible for the Abilene MPO. Mr. Tugbobo greeted the Policy Board and stated he was pleased to be here. Ms. Smetana introduced Ms. Hawkins, the Metropolitan Planner from TxDOT as our new MPO coordinator. Ms. Hawkins explained that she has been with TxDOT 10 plus years but only assigned to the position of Abilene MPO Planner a few months ago. She thanked the board for having her here today. Ms. Smetana continued with her presentation.

- **MPO Staffing** – The Transportation Planner position has been open since June 10, 2022. We are actively working to fill that position.

- **Year-end Report FY 2023 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP)** - Every year the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (is due by December 31 to FHWA and FTA to ensure compliance TxDOT requests that the reports be given to them by December 15 to allow time for their review The ALOP information from TxDOT has not been received so that report has not been submitted.
- **Safety Plan** - In early 2023, it was disseminated 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 January 18, 2024, we were notified by TxDOT that the MPO Safety Planning contract was executed. The kickoff meeting was held in Austin on March 21, 2024 during the TEMPO Meeting. More information will be given to the MPOs in the next few months.
- **2023 Annual Average Daily Traffic Counts Review** – TxDOT TPP Traffic Section is having a preview of the 2023 annual average daily traffic (data AADT is an input into various calculations that evaluate use of the statewide transportation system The data that will be presented in this information session and review period will be used in Highway Performance Monitoring System data, UTP funding formulate, Texas Top 100 Most Congested Roadways analysis, Travel Demand Models, and various other data products and analyses This year's review period is from Monday, April 1 2024 to Friday April 12 2024 We submitted comments on the 2023 AADT and we are working with TxDOT on some locations.
- **Travel Demand Model Presentation** – TxDOT delivered the Abilene 2050 Forecast Travel demand Model (on March 14 2024 We are working with TxDOT to get the model presented at the joint Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee workshop in August 2024.
- **Ride of Silence (May)** – This event is coming up in May normally occurring on the third Wednesday, May 15 2024. We will be working with our partners on this event and have a planning meeting scheduled for April 19th, 2024.
- **Ride to Work (June)** – This event is on Friday June 21 2024. We will be working with our partners on this event.

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.

No comments or suggestions received.

13. Adjournment.

With no further business, Chairman Price adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m.