

MINUTES
AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Policy Advisory Committee for the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization met at 1:30 p.m., April 19, 2007, in Room 306 of City Hall, 509 Southeast 7th Avenue, Amarillo, Texas.

Voting members present were: Alan Taylor, Vicki Covey, Judy Phelps, Taylor Withrow, Kenneth Petr, Dan Fleischman, David Miller, and Gene Parker.

Voting members not present were: Judge Arthur Ware, Mark Tomlinson, Judge Ernie Houdashell, and Michael Rice.

Dual staff coordinators present: Harold McDaniel and Gary Holwick.

Item 1. Consideration of approval of the January 25, 2007 meeting minutes.

Alan Taylor, City Manager, called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous meeting on January 25, 2007, were presented. Mr. Taylor asked if there were any changes or deletions; there were none. Gene Parker, Randall County Commissioner, made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Taylor Withrow, City of Amarillo Traffic Engineer, seconded the motion. The motion was carried on an 8:0 vote.

Item 2. Discussion and consideration of approval of revisions to the 2005-30 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Gary Holwick, MPO Transportation Planner, said that MPO staff has been working to bring all MPO documents and plans into compliance with new requirements outlined in SAFETEA-LU, the new Federal Transportation Bill. He told the Committee that several changes were needed in the 2005-30 Metropolitan Transportation Plan so it would be compliant with SAFETEA-LU. He said the first of the revisions was in Section 2, Planning Elements. A new sub-section for Environmental Mitigation and Consultation was being added to address changes to the planning phase of project development thus streamlining environmental review. The next revision was in Section 2, Planning Elements – Roadway Plan. This change would revise selected project scope and estimated costs for compliance with the TIP. A final revision was to Section 5, Plan Elements – Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. This change would add information about the Texas Safe Routes to Schools Program and local SRTS projects. These revisions are shown in 'Attachment A'.

Vicki Covey, City of Amarillo Director of Community Services, made a motion to approve the revisions to the 2005-2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The motion was seconded by Gene Parker, Randall County Commissioner, and carried 8:0.

Item 3. Discussion and consideration of approval of the 2008-11 Transportation Improvement Program.

Harold McDaniel, MPO Director, stated that since the draft of the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program was presented at the last Policy Advisory Committee on January 25, 2007, MPO staff had conducted a public meeting on March 1, 2007, at the Downtown Central Library and held a 30-day public comment period, which began on February 21, 2007, and ended March 23, 2007. Mr. McDaniel said that the draft TIP was available for review at all City of Amarillo public libraries, on the MPO's website, and at the MPO offices located in Room 204 of City Hall. He said that all comments received had been forwarded to the appropriate governing entities and to the Texas Department of Transportation's Amarillo District Office. He said that a final draft of the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program was included in each member's information packet and was available on the table at the back of the room also. He stated that the only differences between the draft TIP presented in January and today's final draft were several changes to the roadway projects listed and a revision to a project cost estimate. He then gave an overview of those changes: He stated that two new projects were added to the TIP for FY 2008. The two projects include: (1) On Farmers Avenue from FM 1541 (Washington St) to the BNSF Railroad –Rehab existing roadway, estimated cost of \$700,000; and (2) On IH-40 from the BNSF Railroad Bridge to Eastern St – Overlay, estimated cost of \$2,500,000. Another change, in FY 2009, was to revise the estimated cost of the project on IH-27 from Western Street to Loop 335, from \$16,300,000 to \$34,700,000. Mr. McDaniel told the Committee that a project to widen IH-40 to 6 lanes from Loop 335 West to Hope Rd was removed from the draft TIP since it had been moved to FY 2012. He said that an overlay project on IH-27 from Loop 335 to US 60 Split in Canyon in the Grouped Projects Section for FY 2008 was now scheduled to be let in June 2007 and was removed from the draft 2008-2011 TIP.

Taylor Withrow made a motion to approve the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Petr, TxDOT Director of Transportation Planning and Development, and carried 8:0.

Item 4. Discussion and consideration of approval of support for the City of Amarillo 2007 Safe Routes to Schools project proposals.

Harold McDaniel said that the City of Amarillo is applying for a grant from Safe Routes to Schools to construct sidewalks on the north side of NE 15th Avenue from US87/287/Dumas Drive to N Mirror St at an estimated cost of \$250,000; on the north side of NE 24th Ave from US87/287/Dumas Drive to N Roosevelt St at an estimated cost of \$250,000; and on the east side of N Coulter St from Foothill Dr to Fairway Dr at an estimated cost of \$150,000. Mr. McDaniel said that the City has requested the support of the Policy Advisory Committee for this grant application and the Committee's agreement to include these projects in the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program if selected. Joyce Cunningham, Safe Routes to School Coordinator with the Texas Bicycle Coalition, expressed her appreciation to the Committee for their support of the Safe Routes to Schools proposal. Kenneth Graham, 3007 Harmony, questioned whether the design for the proposed Safe Routes to School sidewalks would be adjacent to the back of curb or would allow for a buffer area away from the curb. Mike Smith, City of Amarillo City Engineer, said that a buffer area would be specified if possible, but the right-of-way width and topography of the area may preclude that.

Vicki Covey made a motion to approve the motion to support the Amarillo 2007 Safe Routes to Schools project proposals. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Petr and carried 8:0.

Item 5. Discussion regarding a proposal for a bicycle/pedestrian advisory committee.

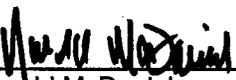
Harold McDaniel stated that a request for the MPO to consider a bicycle and pedestrian advisory committee was made last February at a meeting of the TxDOT Amarillo District staff, MPO staff, and representatives from the Texas Bicycle Coalition & the Old Tascosa Cycling Club. Mr. McDaniel stated that MPO staff would review what other comparably sized MPO's in the state are doing in this respect and will seek FHWA and TxDOT guidance since they control the expenditure of planning funds. He said that bicycle and pedestrian considerations have been and will continue to be a priority with the MPO.

Item 6. Open Forum, time reserved for anyone to speak on any transportation related item; however, no action can be taken on items not on the agenda.

Bud Cochran, 205 S. Timbercreek Dr, said that Osage Street south of the Claude Highway serves approximately 1200 residents of Timbercreek and the Palisades Additions. He said it is a narrow roadway with a steep grade with a drop off on one side. He stated that school buses, along with residents, use the road, and he felt traffic safety was an issue. He questioned the availability of funds to assist in widening the roadway. David Miller, TxDOT Urban Transportation Planner, stated that Osage St in that area is considered to be a rural minor collector by the Federal Highway Administration and it was likely that the roadway would not be eligible for federal assistance, since its functional classification was not high enough. Gene Parker, Randall County Commissioner, suggested to Mr. Cochran that perhaps the creation of a road district to raise funds for road improvements would be a good solution.

Item 7. Adjournment.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting.



Harold McDaniel
Director, Amarillo MPO

Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Advisory Committee Meeting Attendance Record

Date: April 19, 2007
Time: 1:30 P.M.

Place: City Hall, Room 306
509 SE 7th Ave, Amarillo, TX

| | Name | Organization Represented | Phone Number | E-mail Address |
|----|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | GARY HOLWICK | AMARILLO MPO | 806 378 6293 | amarillompo@ci.amarillo.tx.us |
| 2 | <i>[Signature]</i> | Transat - COA | 378 812 | |
| 3 | Bud C N COCHRAN | VILLAGE TIMBERCREEK | 622-0689 | captbud@SBCGLOBAL.NET |
| 4 | <i>[Signature]</i> | Randall Co | 355-9337 | genreg@suddenlink.net |
| 5 | Joyce Cunningham | Saras Bicycle Coalition | 282-1497 | joyce@biketexas.org |
| 6 | Ken Graham | Old Tascosa Cycling | 356-7792 | graham.kenneth@sbcglobal.net |
| 7 | Sarah Hutchison | WT | 622-0310 | Sarahtee2@cox.net |
| 8 | David Miller | TRDOT | 356-3246 | dmiller@dot.state.tx.us |
| 9 | Don Fleischman | TRDOT | 356-3240 | dfleis@dot.state.tx.us |
| 10 | Chyl Kutter | '1 | 3563249 | Clutter@dot.state.tx.us |
| 11 | <i>[Signature]</i> | 71 11 | 356-3202 | kperr@dot.state.tx.us |
| 12 | Jeff Lehmann | WT Journalism | 373-1520 | JLehmann05@yahoo.com |

Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Advisory Committee Meeting Attendance Record

Date: April 19, 2007
Time: 1:30 P.M.

Place: City Hall, Room 306
509 SE 7th Ave, Amarillo, TX

| | Name | Organization Represented | Phone Number | E-mail Address |
|----|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 13 | Karen Welch | Amarillo Globe-News | 345-3359 | Karen.welch@amarillo.com |
| 14 | Taylor M. Withrow | COA | 378-9218 | |
| 15 | ALAN TAYLOR | COA | 378-3012 | |
| 16 | Peter Berzanski | COA | 378-9336 | |
| 17 | Vicki Covey | COA | | |
| 18 | Gerald Payton | PCS | 372-2531 | g-payton@pcsucs.org |
| 19 | Silly Loftin | KVII | 373-1787 | bLoftin@KVII.com |
| 20 | HAROLD Mc DANIEL | AMARILLO MPO | 378 4219 | |
| 21 | MIKE SMITH | COA | 3784227 | |
| 22 | | | | |
| 23 | | | | |
| 24 | | | | |

AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Policy Advisory Committee Meeting
April 19, 2007

REVISION of the 2005-30 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

1. **Update SECTION 2, PLANNING ELEMENTS, add a new sub-section: Environmental Mitigation and Consultation**

Environmental Mitigation and Consultation

SAFETEA-LU requirements were written to provide a more consistent consideration of environmental issues for transportation projects, from planning initiatives through project development. SAFETEA-LU doesn't change how the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) relates to a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Typically, an MTP or other regional long-range plan does not involve specific federal approvals or actions that are likely to cause a significant environmental impact. As such, an MTP doesn't need a NEPA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to meet the requirements of SAFETEA-LU. SAFETEA-LU does, however, require Metropolitan Transportation Plans, which discuss potential environmental mitigation activities, to be developed in consultation with federal, state, and tribal wildlife, land management, and regulatory agencies (resource agencies).

To assist in the NEPA process, Region 6 EPA has developed an assessment tool to systematically consider single and cumulative environmental impacts. The Region 6 EPA GIS Screening Tool (GISST) is designed to facilitate a better understanding of environmental effects and to allow the EPA to share technical and regulatory data with industry, the public and other stakeholders. As required by the Transportation Equity Act of 2001 (TEA-21), E.O. 13274, and Section 6001 of SAFETEA related to linking planning and NEPA, TxDOT is using GISST as an environmental streamlining tool on transportation projects.

The Amarillo MPO will seek opportunities to join in these discussions and make use of GISST tools in an effort to determine the potential impact that activities outlined in the MTP may have on other regional planning efforts. While consultation with our resource agencies occurs as part of the outreach process, the discussion could be enhanced. The collaboration and consultation with existing groups and resource agencies throughout the planning process, along with the study of potential impacts of the MTP, will allow environmentally important regional planning efforts to be addressed.

2. Update SECTION 5, PLAN ELEMENTS, sub-section: ROADWAY PLAN

AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

April 19, 2007 Policy Advisory Committee Meeting

| 2005-30 AMARILLO METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN REVISION – APRIL 19, 2007 | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|----------------------|--|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| MPO ID Number | TxDOT CSJ Number | Location/Description | MTP Cost Estimate | | Comments | |
| | | | Existing | Revision | | |
| A | A5A22S-000 | 0904-02-030 | On North Coulter St from Willow Oak Place to Loop 335 – New four-lane arterial. | \$1,500,000 | \$4,155,000 | Update cost estimate. |
| <i>Item A: A substantial increase in work required to accommodate drainage issues and redesign to accommodate future interchange at Loop 335.</i> | | | | | | |
| B | A5A58L-000 | 0904-11-039 | On SE 34 th Ave at BNSF Railway – Replace bridge & approaches. | \$1,100,000 | \$7,850,000 | Update cost estimate. |
| <i>Item B: A further investigation revealed the need for complete cap replacement and header bank repair.</i> | | | | | | |
| C | A5A03S-000 | 0168-09-148 | On IH-27 from Western St to Loop 335 – Reconstruct, adding two additional lanes. | \$7,210,000 | \$34,700,000 | Update cost estimate. |
| <i>Item C: Estimate updated to include interchange upgrades at Western St, Hillside Rd, Bell St, and Loop 335 to include turnarounds and to accommodate frontage road drainage issues.</i> | | | | | | |
| D | A5A39L-000 | 0275-01-152 | On IH-40 at Bell, Avondale, & Washington Streets – Drainage improvements. | \$1,000,000 | \$4,000,000 | Update cost estimate. |
| <i>Item D: Further investigation determined the need to move inlets and add a larger outlet structure, which substantially increased project cost.</i> | | | | | | |
| E | A5A38L-000 | 0275-01-135 | On IH-40 at Whitaker Rd & Lakeside St – Build turnarounds. | \$4,500,000 | \$9,000,000 | Update cost estimate. |
| <i>Item E: Project scope expanded to include upgrading ramps, adding turnarounds, increasing project limits, and additional R-O-W needs.</i> | | | | | | |
| F | A5A15S-000 | 0041-07-084 | On US 87 at Loop 434 (River Rd) – Rehab bridge & approaches. | \$772,000 | \$775,300 | Update cost estimate. |
| G | A5A04S-000 | 0168-09-142 | On IH-27 from Potter County Line to SW 45 th Ave – Concrete upgrade to Interstate standards. | \$15,000,000 | \$7,000,000 | Update cost estimate. |
| H | A5A04S-001 | 0168-10-061 | On IH-27 from 0.1 mile North of IH-40 Interchange to Randall County Line – Concrete upgrade to Interstate standards. | | \$15,000,000 | Update cost estimate. |
| I | A5A27L-000 | 0904-00-902 | Loop 434 (River Rd) at Hastings Ave – Intersection improvements. | \$500,000 | \$750,000 | Update cost estimate. |
| <i>Items F thru I: Aside from the above factors that were not fully known at the time of the original estimates, construction and administrative costs have risen significantly since the Amarillo 2005-30 Metropolitan Transportation Plan was adopted in October 2004.</i> | | | | | | |

3. Update SECTION 5, PLAN ELEMENTS, sub-section: BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN

Safe Routes to School

Introduction

The Safe Routes To Schools (SRTS) programs enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school. The programs make walking and biking to school safe and more appealing. SRTS projects and activities improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of primary and middle schools. Communities are able to use the funds to address hazards and slow traffic on roads that serve schools, as well as to build pathways, bike lanes, and sidewalks near schools.

Eligible applicants include state, local, and regional agencies, nonprofits, and public schools. Primary beneficiaries must be students, Kindergarten through grade 8. The competitive application process is administered by the Texas Department of Transportation. The approved projects are 100 percent federally funded. Award recipients must comply with federal and state funding requirements. Infrastructure projects must be within two miles of a school and on public property or private land with legal public-access easements.

SRTS Objectives

- to enable and encourage children in grades K-8, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school
- to make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age
- to facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools

SRTS Benefits

- Increased bicycle, pedestrian, and traffic safety
- More children walking and bicycling to and from schools
- Decreased traffic congestion
- Improved childhood health
- Reduced childhood obesity
- Encouragement of healthy and active lifestyles
- Improved air quality
- Improved community safety
- Reduced fuel consumption
- Enhanced community accessibility
- Increased community involvement
- Improvements to the physical environment that increase the ability to walk and bicycle to and from schools
- Increased interest in bicycle and pedestrian accommodations throughout a community
- Improved partnerships among schools, local municipalities, parents, and other community groups, including non-profit organizations

SRTS Elements

The Safe Routes To School program is intended to be comprehensive, utilizing infrastructure enhancements to improve bicycle and pedestrian mobility and safety, as well as non-infrastructure approaches including bicycle and pedestrian safety education, awareness of the opportunities to safely bike and walk to school, and by addressing safety concerns through law enforcement activities. The Program is divided into five elements, which include both infrastructure and non-infrastructure components, referred to as the “5 E’s”. A general description of each element is provided below.

- **Engineering** – Creating operational and physical improvements to the infrastructure surrounding schools that reduce speeds or potential conflicts with motor vehicle traffic, and establish safer and fully accessible crossings, walkways, trails, and bikeways.
- **Education** – Teaching children about the broad range of transportation choices, instructing them in important lifelong bicycling and walking safety skills, and launching driver safety campaigns in the vicinity of schools.
- **Enforcement** – Partnering with local law enforcement to ensure traffic laws are obeyed in the vicinity of schools (this includes enforcement of speeds, yielding to pedestrians in crossings, and proper walking and bicycling behaviors), and initiating community enforcement such as crossing-guard programs.
- **Encouragement** – Using events and activities to promote walking and bicycling.
- **Evaluation** – Monitoring and documenting outcomes and trends through the collection of data, including the collection of data before and after the interventions.

Potential Projects

The Amarillo MPO plans to compete for Safe Routes to Schools Funds. Plans under consideration and a category for potential development are shown in the following table.

Safe Routes to School Projects

| Project ID | Description | Cost x1000 |
|------------|---|------------|
| A5A-SR-01 | Sidewalk Project – NE 15 th Avenue (north side) From US 87/287 To N. Mirror Street | 250 |
| A5A-SR-02 | Sidewalk Project – NE 24 th Avenue (north side) From US 87/287 To N Roosevelt Street | 250 |
| A5A-SR-03 | Sidewalk Project – N Coulter Street (east side) From Foothill Drive To Fairway Drive | 150 |
| A5A-SR-04 | VARIOUS PROJECTS | |