

**MINUTES**  
**AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Policy Committee for the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization met at 1:30 p.m., January 20, 2011, in Room 306 of City Hall, 509 South East 7th Avenue, Amarillo, Texas.

Voting members present were: Debra McCartt, Brian Eades, Jarrett Atkinson, Kenneth Petr, Kyle Ingham, Dick Davis, Ernie Houdashell, and Robert Karrh.

Voting members not present were: Howard Holland, H.R. Kelly, and Arthur Ware.

Staff coordinators were: Gary Holwick and Travis Muno.

**Item 1. Consider approval of the October 21, 2010 meeting minutes.**

Debra McCartt, Mayor, City of Amarillo, called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous meeting on October 21, 2010 were presented. Ms. McCartt asked if there were any corrections to the minutes; there were none. Robert Karrh, Randall County Commissioner, made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ernie Houdashell, Randall County Judge, seconded the motion. A vote of 8:0 carried the motion.

**Item 2. Consider alternative projects for Urban Mobility funding.**

Travis Muno, MPO Senior Planner, recapped part of the October 2010 meeting for the committee members. He restated that the environmental review for the project to upgrade Hillside Rd to a full arterial from Loop 335 west to Nancy Ellen Dr was hindered by the fact that Nancy Ellen was not complete. He said that after the October Policy Committee meeting the MPO Technical Committee met as instructed by the Policy Committee to discuss alternative projects for Hillside Rd. At its November meeting, the Technical Committee learned that projects for added capacity, such as Hillside Rd, would need greater justification than data for this project would support. He said the Technical Committee met in November and December to discuss alternative project recommendations. At its January meeting, the Technical Committee selected two projects for the Policy Committee's consideration. These alternates met the environmental, financial, and timeframe limitations imposed by TxDOT Unified Transportation Program funding constraints.

Next, Mr. Muno presented the two project alternates selected by the Technical Committee. The first alternative, at SW 45th Ave and Bell St, included intersection improvements with pavement rehabilitation, storm drain inlets, and traffic signal modifications (video detection), was estimated to cost \$500,000. The second project, on Georgia St south of Loop 335, included about 2,600 feet of pavement rehabilitation (two lanes, each with 2 foot shoulders, for a 28 foot roadway section), was estimated to cost \$550,000. Mr. Muno said both rehabilitation projects were within the proposed funding limits. He said that a decision was needed from the committee for selection of an alternate project to replace the project on Hillside Rd.

Jarrett Atkinson, City Manager – Amarillo, asked for clarification on Hillside Rd. Mr. Muno explained that without adequate justification (environmental, traffic counts, existing termini, etc.) for 2 additional lanes, FHWA could not allow funding of the project. The Mayor asked Mr. Atkinson to explain the situation. Mr. Atkinson went over the discussion from the previous meeting and further described the project disposition. Michael Rice, City of Amarillo Public Works Director, said that the subdivision developer had platted right-of-way and submitted plans for the construction of Nancy Ellen Dr. Mr. Muno told the committee these actions would not alter the situation. Brian Eades, Commissioner – City of Amarillo, asked about storm water flooding and drain inlets for the proposed project at SW 45<sup>th</sup> Ave and Bell St. Mr. Rice provided details about this work. Mr. Karrh said the South Georgia St Project would certainly benefit the Randall County Sheriff's Department and Jail, as well as the Youth Center for the High Plains. Judge Houdashell told the committee that Randall County would need to budget for the 20% local match. The committee felt that both projects were worthwhile and warranted.

Additional discussion continued to clarify the situation before the committee. In the interest of fairness, Mr. Eades asked about the historic participation of local entities in projects funded with federal transportation dollars: how many projects had been done in the City or in either of the two Counties. Mr. Holwick told the committee that there were no other projects in either county shown in the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program.

Kyle Ingham, Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, asked Judge Houdashell if Randall County would have local matching funds available for the project on South Georgia St. The Judge said that the County would immediately look at local funding for this project. Mr. Ingham made a motion to remove urban mobility funding from the project on Hillside Rd from Loop 335 west to Nancy Ellen Dr and apply those funds to the rehabilitation project on Georgia St south of Loop 335. The motion was seconded by Robert Karrh. Jarrett Atkinson offered an amendment to this motion that the SW 45<sup>th</sup> Ave & Bell St project be considered for additional funds which might be made available from projects in the 2014 fiscal year of the TIP. Jarrett told Mr. Eades that should Randall County be unable to provide matching funds, the Policy Committee would readdress the use of the urban mobility funds for SW 45<sup>th</sup> & Bell St improvements. The motion to amend was seconded by Brian Eades. The motion and its amendment were approved with a vote of 8:0.

**Item 3. 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.**

Ken Graham, 3007 Harmony St, Amarillo, Texas, said as a citizen of Southwest Amarillo he was interested in the project at SW 45<sup>th</sup> Ave and Bell St because of its proximity to a local high school, a large regional park, and the surrounding commercial and residential development. He stated that heavy traffic on these arterial roadways made access to the school and park difficult for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. He felt that improvements at this location and other major arterial crossings would make the intersections safer for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. He said he had observed pedestrian countdown timers in other cities and wondered if this type of signal installation would aid in the safety of pedestrian traffic at the intersection.

Ernie Houdashell, Randall County Judge, asked whether traffic signals in the City of Amarillo could be programmed to begin a sequence of timed green ball flashes, prior to the yellow ball being actuated, to give advance warning to drivers that the signal is beginning its change to the red ball. Mayor McCartt asked Taylor Withrow, City of Amarillo Traffic Engineer, if this was being considered. Mr. Withrow answered, it was not.

Steve Hayward seconded Mr. Graham's observations for pedestrian safety at intersection locations.

**Item 4. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned with no further business to discuss.



Gary Holwick  
Director, Amarillo MPO

**Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee Meeting Attendance Record**

Date: January 20, 2011  
Time: 1:30 P.M.

Place: Room 306 City Hall,  
509 SE 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Amarillo, TX

	Name	Organization Represented	Phone Number	E-mail Address
1	GARY HOWLICK	AMARILLO MPO	806-378-6293	gary.howlick@amarillo.gov
2	Johnnie Hill	PRPC	378-3561	johnnie@prpc.org
3	Eric Houlshell	Randall County	468-5500	Eric.Houlshell@randallcounty.com
4	Gary Denton	City of Amarillo	378-3301	gary.denton@amarillo.gov
5	Mike Davis	Amarillo Co C	378-8300	ddavis@amc.net
6	Taylor Withrow	City of Amarillo	378-4218	
7	Robert Park	Randall Co	684-5955	
8	Jessica Reynolds	W. Reno - <sup>State</sup> Hwy 100	350-4078	Hayward825@ymail.com
9	Cheryl Luther	TxDOT	356-3249	Cheryl.Luther@txdot.gov
10	DAVID MILLER	TxDOT	356-7296	david.miller@txdot.gov
11	Kenneth Retz	TxDOT	356-3202	KennethRetz@txdot.gov
12	Hyun Jung Kim	PRPC	PRPC	PRPC

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	Name	Organization Represented	Phone Number	E-mail Address
13	Kenneth Graham	Share the ROAD!	356-7792 (H)	kgraham.kenneth@shareglobal.net
14	Frank Adams	PRPC	378-3561	frank.adams@prpc.org
15	BRIAN EADDS	City of Amarillo		
16	JACQUEE ADKINSON	COA		
17	Michael Rice	City of Amarillo		
18	Thomas Adams	PRPC	378-3561	thomas.adams@prpc.org
19	Delna McCurt	City	378-4331	
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