

MINUTES
AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Policy Committee for the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization met at 3:30 p.m., January 26, 2012, in the Large Conference Room of the Texas Department of Transportation Amarillo District Administrative Offices, 5715 Canyon Drive, Amarillo, Texas.

Voting members present were: Paul Harpole, Jarrett Atkinson, Ernie Houdashell, Robert Karrh, H.R. Kelly, Dick Davis, and Howard Holland.

Voting members not present were: Arthur Ware, Tracy Cain, Kyle Ingham, and Brian Eades.

Staff coordinators were: Gary Holwick and Travis Muno.

Item 1. Consider approval of the October 20, 2011 meeting minutes.

Paul Harpole, Mayor, City of Amarillo, called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous meeting on October 20, 2011 were presented. Mr. Harpole asked if there were any corrections to the minutes; there were none.

Jarrett Atkinson, City Manager, City of Amarillo, made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Howard Holland, TxDOT Amarillo District Engineer, seconded the motion. A vote of 7:0 carried the motion.

Item 2. Consider approval of a new MPO Planning Agreement.

Gary Holwick, MPO Director, told the Committee that the Texas Department of Transportation had decided to review the language of the new MPO/State of Texas Planning Agreement at the request of several other MPOs in the state. Consequently, a revised agreement with new language was expected to be introduced in a within the upcoming quarter. Mr. Holwick asked that the Committee table this agenda item until such time as the new provisions could be reviewed. The Chair agreed and the item was tabled awaiting a report from MPO staff.

Item 3. Discuss alternative Category 2 – Metropolitan and Urban Corridor projects.

Mr. Holland and Mr. Holwick gave the Committee a recap on the history pertaining to the Loop 335 corridor in Amarillo. They updated the members on current project planning. Mr. Holland said a Prop 12 funded project of on Loop 335 from IH-27 East to the BNSF Railroad Bridge and scheduled for letting in August 2013, will consist of additional lanes, bridges, and frontage roads for a more traditional style highway loop. This project could set a standard for the SE quadrant of Loop 335 section going east to IH-40. This project displaced an earlier, comparable project funded with Category 2 funds.

Mr. Holland stated the Technical Committee reviewed comments from the public, property owners, and developers to establish a ranking of other projects funded by Category 2 funds. Of the ten such projects reviewed, the top priority projects were LP 335 from BI-40 to SW 45th Ave and LP 335 from SW 45th Ave to SW 77th Ave. Those projects would include raised medians and intersection improvements in hopes of establishing a pattern continuing on to IH-27. Kelley Shaw, Planning Director, pointed out the two projects being considered are for safety and mobility issues, clarifying that raised medians restrict left-turning abilities, and does not close off access to the properties. Mr. Atkinson commented the area needed attention: causing minimal disruption, discouraging continuous center turn lanes, offering some level of controlled access, and continuing around the rest of the southwest Loop.

Bob Garrett, Doug Schooley, Perry Williams, and Greg Mitchell voiced concerns with these two projects, the impact on their businesses, and asked the Policy Committee to wait before endorsing the projects until having another meeting with property owners and developers. Mayor Harpole mentioned the Committee must consider what the businesses have already invested, and create better safety and flow in this area. Mr. Holland stated if the projects go

forward, the corridor should be uniform so that all businesses and property owners are treated equally. Mr. Holland suggested setting up an advisory group made up of TxDOT members, developers, business owners, and citizens to discuss an overall long-term vision of the loop. After meeting, this group will submit their findings to the Technical Committee for a recommendation back to the MPO Policy Committee. The citizens in attendance agreed to the suggestion.

Item 4. Presentation of development of the draft 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program.

Travis Muno, MPO Senior Planner, gave an overview of the Transportation Improvement Program and its relation to other planning documents required of the Amarillo MPO. He spoke about the development of the draft 2013-16 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He said that MPO staff had conducted a public meeting on November 10, 2011 to receive comments from the public. Travis told the committee that comments received at that meeting addressed local arterial streets, bicycle & pedestrian facilities, and overall safety of the local transportation system.

Mr. Muno identified each of the projects included with and identified in the draft TIP document. He said a 30-day public comment period on the draft 2013-2016 TIP would begin on February 13 and end on March 14, 2012, with another public meeting on February 29, 2012. He encouraged the public to attend all future meetings and participate in the transportation planning process.

Mr. Holwick told the committee several projects addressed in the previous agenda item remain in the draft TIP. He said the State Unified Transportation Program would need to be revised before a project from Agenda Item #3 could be included in the 2013-16 TIP and that process would require additional time.

Item 5. 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.

No comments were received from Committee members or citizens attending the meeting.

Item 6. 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 26, 2012
Time: 3:30 P.M.

Place: Large Conference Room,
TxDOT, 5715 Canyon Dr, Amarillo, TX

	Name	Organization Represented	Phone Number	E-mail Address
1	Trina Fournier		679-0775	livinginjoyfulchaos@yahoo.com
2	Kelley Steen Travis Muno	COA MPO	378-4219	Travis.Muno@amarillo.gov
3	Blair Johnson	TxDOT	356-3247	blair.johnson@txdot.gov
4	Dean Dooney	Share The Road	236-5787	hdridor994@hotmail.com
5	Dave Shady	Kimco	214-720-0557	dschooley@kimcorealty.com
6	Justin Kite	CBC	354-3500	jkite@cbcamerillo.com
7	Tom Sanders	COA		
8	H.R. Kelly	Pillar County Comm.	674-3511	SGHRKELLY@AOL.COM
9	J. ATKINSON	COA		
10	P Harpole	COA		
11	Tennis Bugg	OFFICE MAX	352-6197	
12	Dick Davis	CoFC	373-8300	ddavis@arn.net

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	Name	Organization Represented	Phone Number	E-mail Address
13	Gina Doudy	Sen. Kel Seliger	374-8994	
14	Howard Holland	TxDOT		
15	Kit Black	TxDOT		
16	Bob Garrett	CBS	356-4066	
17	Liza Shelton	Rep. Four Price	374-8787	
18	Perry Williams	AWS	806-676-8852	
19	Tiffany Pulliam	TxDOT	806-356-3249	Tiffany.A.Pulliam@txdot.gov
20	Robert Knorr	Randall Co		
21	Jamie Lallen	PRPC		
22	E. HODDASHELL	RANDALL COUNTY		
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	Name	Organization Represented	Phone Number	E-mail Address
25	Greg Mitchell	Todn Totum	373-4357	
26	Gary Denton	COA Utilities	378-9307	gary.denton@amarillo.gov
27	Mike Reed	COA Engineering	378-4227	mike.reed@amarillo.gov
28	Michael Rice	COA Public Works	378-9337	
29	William Ware	ANB	378-8136	wware@anb.com
30	Ellis C. Fournier	Good	5320235	Ellis.Fournier@yahoo.com
31	GARY HOWARD	AMARILLO MPO	378 6293	
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