

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

The Policy Committee for the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization met at 1:30 p.m., January 18, 2016, in Room 275 of the Simms Building, 808 South Buchanan, Amarillo, Texas.

Voting members present were: Jared Miller, Kit Black, Eddie Sauer, Kyle Ingham, Dick Davis, Mark Benton, and Brian Crawford.

Voting members not present were: Ernie Houdashell, HR Kelly, Ginger Nelson, Nancy Tanner

Ex Officio Members present: Randy Criswell

Staff coordinators were: Travis Muno, and Devin Jones.

**Item 1. Consider approval of the October 19, 2017 meeting minutes.**

Jared Miller opened the meeting in place of Mayor Nelson with a vote for approval of the October 19, 2017 minutes. Kyle Ingham moved to accept the minutes as they were written. Dick Davis seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously by an 7:0 vote.

**Item 2. Discussion of the 2019-22 Draft Transportation Improvement Program Document.**

Mr. Travis Muno, MPO Senior Planner, advised the committee that no action would need to be taken on this item, but this was a preliminary draft of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Document. Travis explained that the new TIP was updated to uphold Fast Act. The document also holds the last 2 years of projects from the previous TIP and two future years worth of projects. Kyle Ingham asked if the projects in the TIP are completely funded. Travis answered that yes, in order to be placed in the TIP they must be fully funded. Dick Davis suggested a more simple table format that would provide important information at a quick glance for meetings.

Jared Miller brought up the discussion he'd had with AISD staff about a possible new project near 45<sup>th</sup> and 58<sup>th</sup> near Tradewinds, for bridges to go over or under the train tracks. New schools are in consideration to be built, and as it stands, these areas are not safe for walking, or prepared to handle the increased traffic. Dick Davis commented that this was something looked at around 30 years ago, but that there were issues with landowners, as there were several different owners of the land. The suggestion of the committee was for the school board members to be invited to the prioritization workshop to talk about their situation.

Travis made the board aware of the public meeting in February. Kyle Ingham asked if Amarillo's region was represented on the TxDOT Transportation Commission, and Brian answered that the region was discussed but not represented.

Travis explained that though this item did not need action to be taken, the TIP would be brought back in April to be voted in.

**Item 3. Update of the MPO Director posting and process.**

AJ Fawver, Director of Planning came before the committee to give an update on the search for a new MPO Director. She explained that the job request had been posted with SGR , and posted to several other websites to hopefully find a new candidate

quickly. The job will be posted for 30 days from the original posting, and will be taken down on February the 8<sup>th</sup> unless no applicant has been found. At that time it will be reposted and extended at no penalty. AJ explained that SGR would handle the prescreening of candidates, but a hiring board would be made once there were candidates to interview.

**Item 4. Consider the Safety Measures adopted by TxDOT**

Travis explained to the Policy Committee that the FAST act requires both TxDOT and MPO's to adopt safety performance measures. He also explained that TxDOT adopted their safety performance measures in August. The fast act set 5 basic safety targets, and they would continue to put more out in the coming months. The two options that the Amarillo MPO has, is to either adopt their own, or support the ones set by TxDOT. The TAC Committee suggested that the MPO adopt the TxDOT safety measures.

Jared Miller asked how difficult it would be for the safety measures to be met, and Travis explained that we already meet these safety measures fairly easily. Concern was brought up that we might lose funding if we did not meet these safety measures, however Travis explained that no funding would be revoked, only moved around to promote safer transportation.

Dick Davis moved to approve the Safety Measures adopted by TxDOT.

Mark Benton seconded.

The motion passed unanimously with a 7:0 vote.

**Item 5. Discussion of the Metropolitan Area Boundary and Suggested Improvements**

Travis Muno and Bill Frawley together explained the necessity of expanding the MAB Boundary to include Canyon, Bushland, Lake Tanglewood, and a few other urban clusters around Amarillo. They presented the boundary that the TAC committee has been working on. Dick Davis asked what the area south area of the current boundary. The current boundary ends at Rockwell Road, and the area south of that is known as the Mascalero Urban Cluster. It was established that the ETJ areas for Amarillo and Canyon are currently overlapping, but are not considered a continuous urbanized area. If the MAB boundary is expanded there are several things that would need to be changed. The MPO Bylaws would need to be updated, the MPO would have to plan for a larger geographic area. However, it would give more accurate data, traffic is already moving between Amarillo and Canyon, and provides an opportunity to coordinate more directly with Canyon.

When questioned about his opinion, Randy Criswell was very supportive of the expansion. He said that Amarillo and Canyon are already considered to be together. He also stated that he understood his role as well as Canyon's was proportional to Amarillo.

Questions about whether funds would be spread thinner and if Canyon would lose their current funding was brought up, but Bill Frawley, and Terry Nix from TxDOT explained

this was not the case, and though it may be tight for a year or two, then once the new census went into effect, funding would even out.


This item was put on the agenda for the March workshop to discuss further.

**Item 6. Open Forum.**

There were no public comments.

**Item 8. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned with no further business to discuss.

  
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Ginger Nelson, Chairman  
Amarillo MPO