

MINUTES
AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Policy Committee for the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization met at 1:30 p.m., April 21, 2016, in Room 306 of City Hall, 509 South East 7th Avenue, Amarillo, Texas.

Voting members present were: Terry Childers, Mark Nair, Ernie Houdashell, Kyle Ingham, Mark Benton, Brian Crawford, and Gus Khankarli.

Voting members not present were: Paul Harpole, Dick Davis, Nancy Tanner, and H.R. Kelly.

Staff coordinators were: Gary Holwick and Travis Muno.

Item 1. Consider approval of the January 21, 2016 meeting minutes.

Terry Childers, Manager, City of Amarillo, introduced Brian Crawford, TxDOT Amarillo District Engineer to the Committee. Mr. Childers advised the minutes of the previous meeting on January 21, 2016 were ready for consideration. Mr. Childers asked if there were any corrections to the minutes; there were none.

Kyle Ingham, Local Government Services Director from PRPC, made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Judge Ernie Houdashell, Randall County, seconded the motion. A vote of 6:0:1 carried the motion, with Mark Nair, City Councilmember abstaining.

Item 2. Receive Project Status Update from TxDOT – Amarillo District staff.

Gus Khankarli, TxDOT Amarillo District Transportation Planning & Development Director, along with Terry Nix, TxDOT Amarillo District Planner, reported on a variety of projects including those on IH-40, and SL335 Corridors. Mr. Nix also presented an in depth report and visual aid on the proposed multi-level interchange at SL 335 (Lakeside) and IH-40. Mr. Khankarli invited the committee members and the public to a meeting on May 26 for further discussion of the proposed interchange. The committee was interested and supportive on the projects discussed.

Item 3. Consider 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) revision.

Mr. Travis Muno, MPO Senior Planner, gave an overview of the need for revision of the 2015-40 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). He said the revisions were needed to add or revise the scope of two projects within the document. Mr. Muno advised the projects are the ramp improvements along IH-40 from Georgia St. to Crockett St., and on SL335 from FM 2590 to Bell St., converting non-freeway to a freeway section. The 2015-40 MTP project revisions are shown in Attachment A.

Mr. Nair, made a motion to accept the action as presented. Mr. Benton, Randall County Commissioner, seconded the motion. A vote of 7:0 carried the motion.

Item 4. Consider 2015-18 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) revision.

Mr. Muno explained the need for revision of the 2015-18 Transportation Improvement Program. He said several changes were necessary due to funding changes from FTA for Amarillo City Transit, the local public transportation system. Overall, the revision modifies project scope of work and funding amounts, for projects identified in the document. The 2015-18 TIP revision is shown in Attachment B.

Mr. Benton, made a motion to accept the action as presented. Mr. Crawford seconded the motion. A vote of 7:0 carried the motion.

Item 5. Consider the draft 2017-20 Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Muno gave an overview of the plans and programs required of and produced by the Amarillo MPO. He spoke about the development of the draft 2017-20 Transportation Improvement Program, shown in Attachment C. Mr. Muno stated MPO staff had conducted public meetings in November 2015, and February 2016, to prepare the content of the document. The draft TIP was first presented to the Policy Committee during its quarterly meeting on January 21, 2016. He told the Committee a 30-day public comment period for development of the document followed in February and March. The public input and comment which staff received were incorporated into the final draft. Mr. Muno addressed each of the projects contained in the TIP, describing the locations, limits, and scope of work. He said, if approved today, the TIP will take effect on October 1, 2016.

Mr. Ingham made a motion to accept the action as presented. Judge Houdashell, seconded the motion, and the motion carried 7:0.

Item 6. Consider a TIGER 2016 Grant Program project.

Gary Holwick, MPO Director, spoke about the 2016 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. He said it is a federal grant program that originated from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Mr. Holwick gave the Committee a briefing on the intent and purpose of the TIGER Program. He stated the project needs an endorsement by an MPO.

Mr. Holwick then asked Kelley Shaw, City of Amarillo Planning Director, to present information about a proposed Downtown Amarillo Complete Streets Initiative project for the 2016 TIGER Program Call. Mr. Shaw presented a complete streets project design to revitalize Polk St, from SW 11th Ave to SW 3rd Ave and along SW 6th Ave from the eastern terminus of the Amarillo Rock Island Rail Trail at SW 7th Ave and Crockett St to a proposed Intermodal Transportation Center at Grant St and SW 4th Ave. The project includes traffic lanes, bicycle lanes, and on-street parking while establishing a pedestrian safe environment within the current right-of-way. Discussion was held among the MPO Policy Committee and the general consensus of the group was overall support of the project.

Judge Houdashell made a motion for the MPO Policy Committee to offer a letter of support, Attachment D, for the 2016 TIGER Grant Program application. Mr. Nair, seconded the motion, and the motion carried 7:0.

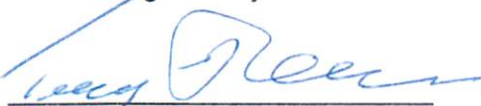
Item 7. Open Forum, time reserved for anyone to speak on any transportation related item; however, no action can be taken on items not on the agenda.

John Salazar, City Manager for Greyhound, introduced himself and advised Greyhound desires to be a good community partner and is available to assist in downtown projects.

Russell Sahm, property owner, asked if the ramp project along IH-40 and Whitaker was included within the TIP revision. Mr. Childers suggested Mr. Sahm visit with Mr. Nix and Mr. Khankarli after the meeting adjourned to discuss the project further.

Item 8. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned with no further business to discuss.



Terry Childers, Chairman
Amarillo MPO