

MINUTES
AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Voting members present were: Paul Harpole, Terry Childers, Nancy Tanner, Ernie Houdashell, Kyle Ingham, Mark Benton, H.R. Kelly, Brian Crawford, and Gus Khankarli.

Voting members not present were: Dick Davis and Mark Nair.

Staff coordinators present were: Travis Munro.

Paul Harpole, Mayor, City of Amarillo, welcomed Representative John Smithee and other legislative representatives in attendance.

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

Mayor Harpole raised a number of concerns regarding projects inside the planning area that had been shown in planning documents for several years. These issues were followed up and addressed in Agenda Item 2.

Mayor Harpole advised the minutes of the previous meeting on April 21, 2016 were ready for consideration. Mayor Harpole asked if there were any corrections to the minutes; there were none.

Terry Childers, Interim City Manager, City of Amarillo, made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mark Benton, Randall County Commissioner, seconded the motion. A vote of 9:0 carried the motion.

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

Gus Khankarli, TxDOT Amarillo District Transportation Planning & Development Director, reported on a variety of projects including those on IH-40, and SL335 Corridors. The committee was interested in the projects discussed. Mr. Khankarli spoke about prioritizing projects for the 2017 Texas Unified Transportation Plan. Mr. Khankarli advised due to funding shortages and changes, many projects will be forced to be delayed. Brian Crawford, TxDOT Amarillo District Engineer, commented the next few months are an important time for the Committee as proposed projects are reviewed and decisions made regarding projects to be prioritized based on community needs.

The committee members and public were invited to a meeting tonight, July 21, 2016, for discussion of a proposed project on IH-40 at the Bell Street overpass.

Item 3. Consider draft 2016 Unified Planning Work Program.

Travis Munro, Amarillo MPO Senior Planner, presented the FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), shown in Attachment A. He spoke to the Committee about what purpose the MPO serves and briefly summarized the major planning programs for which the MPO is responsible. Mr. Munro explained the purpose of the UPWP and discussed each of the work elements contained in the UPWP. He said that the UPWP is a federally required document which serves as a guide for transportation planning activities to be conducted over the course of a specified fiscal year. He talked about the source of planning funds from both FHWA and FTA. He told the committee that funding was again limited and little had changed from the preceding fiscal year's UPWP. Mr. Munro advised the FY 2017 Budget Summary page reflects \$400,000 in total funds, with \$358,202 from FHWA and FTA planning funds, and approximately \$41,798 drawn from carryover funds. Mr. Munro stated one comment was received from a citizen during a 30-day public comment period for the FY 2017 UPWP. He said that TxDOT and FHWA had made recommendations regarding the document. He told the Committee the UPWP would be offered to TxDOT, FHWA, & FTA after action at today's meeting.

Mark Benton made a motion to adopt the UPWP as presented. Judge Ernie Houdashell, Randall County seconded the motion. A vote of 8:0 carried the motion, as Judge Nancy Tanner had to leave the meeting.

Item 4. 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 made.

Item 5. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned with no further business to discuss.



Paul Harpole, Chairman
Amarillo MPO