

## MINUTES

### AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Policy Committee for the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization met at 1:30 p.m., October 15, 2015, in Room 306 of City Hall, 509 South East 7th Avenue, Amarillo, Texas.

Voting members present were: Ernie Houdashell, Kyle Ingham, Dick Davis, Mark Benton, Nancy Tanner, Gus Khankarli, and Mark Nair.

Voting members not present were: Jarrett Atkinson, Paul Harpole, Ron Johnston, and H.R. Kelly.

Staff coordinators were: Gary Holwick and Travis Muno.

Gary Holwick, MPO Director, stated that Mayor Paul Harpole, City Manager Jarrett Atkinson, and TxDOT District Engineer Ron Johnston were unable to attend today's meeting. He said according to the Amarillo MPO bylaws a chairperson would need to be selected by the remaining committee members. Member Dick Davis, Amarillo Chamber of Commerce, agreed to preside over the meeting.

#### **Item 1. Consider approval of the July 16, 2015 meeting minutes.**

Dick Davis advised the minutes of the previous meeting on July 16, 2015 were ready for consideration. Mr. Davis asked if there were any corrections to the minutes; there were none. Ernie Houdashell, Randall County Judge, made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Kyle Ingham, PRPC, seconded the motion. A vote of 6:0 carried the motion. Mark Nair, City Council Member, abstained.

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

Terry Nix, TxDOT Amarillo District Planner, reported on a variety of projects including those along IH-40, SL335, & the Soncy Road Corridor. Mr. Nix also updated the Committee on FY 2016 & 2017 Proposition One Funding. 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 or funding of several projects within the document.

Mr. Muno addressed projects in the MTP. He said, several changes were necessary due to advancement of projects or revision of funding or scope of work in others. Overall, the revision modifies project scope of work, project limits, funding amounts, or added projects to the document. The 2015-40 MTP project revisions are shown in Attachment A.

Kyle Ingham made a motion to accept the action as presented. Mark 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 revising the 2015-18 Transportation Improvement Program. He said several changes were necessary due to advancement of projects, revision of funding or scope of work in others. Overall, the revisions modify project scope of work, project limits, funding amounts, Prop 1 funding, or added projects to the document. The 2015-18 TIP revision is shown in Attachment B.

Ernie Houdashell made a motion to accept the action as presented. Nancy Tanner, Potter County Judge, seconded the motion. A vote of 7:0 carried the motion.

#### **Item 5. Receive a presentation of the FY2015 Annual List of Projects.**

Mr. Muno presented the 2015 Annual List of Projects shown in Attachment C. He explained that each year the MPO is required to report on projects for which federal funding was obligated inside the MPO boundary. He stated that the list of projects included various roadway and transit projects. Travis told the committee that these projects were the subject of a public comment period that began on October 1, 2015 and ended October 10, 2015. He said no comments had been received during the comment period. He mentioned today's meeting was another opportunity for the public to comment on the 2015 Annual List of Projects. Mr. Davis asked if the members of the committee or members of the public attending the meeting had comments about the 2015 Annual Project Listing, but no comments were received. Mr. Muno said no formal action was needed for this agenda item.

**Item 6. 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.**

Gary Holwick, MPO Director, said that tentative meeting dates for the 2016 calendar year are included in the Committee's packet. He called attention to an award Mr. Ron Johnston had received earlier in the year. He invited the members to a public meeting scheduled on November 12<sup>th</sup> for development of the 2017-20 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Holwick also reported that the City of Amarillo was unsuccessful with its application for Transportation Alternative Program funding to assist Phase II of the Rock Island Rail Trail. He also told the Committee that FHWA & FTA would be meeting with staff in December to discuss programming merits & deficiencies in anticipation of the Amarillo MPO becoming a TMA with Census 2020.

Mr. Russell Sahm, who owns property at IH-40 and Eastern St, had questions and concerns about any proposed projects along the IH-40 Corridor in the vicinity of his property. He questioned the merits of ramp reversal projects, such as those underway on IH-40 near Coulter St & SL 335 (Soncy Rd), being utilized near his property. Gus Khankarli, TxDOT Amarillo TP&D, said that any project near IH-40 & Eastern St was such recent development, that no engineering, design, environmental, or public involvement work had even begun. Consequently, there was nothing to discuss or review regarding such. Mr. Sahm asked if an item regarding arterial access policy could be placed on a future agenda. Mr. Davis told him this was an operational issue outside of the Committee's jurisdiction.

Mr. Ben Womack, of Amarillo, asked about the location of future exit ramps along SL335. Mr. Khankarli told him that a consultant was currently just beginning work on the project assessment for SL335. Project specifics would be addressed in the environmental review.

**Item 7. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned with no further business to discuss.



Dick Davis, Chairman  
Amarillo MPO