

MINUTES
REVISED July 17, 2014
AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Policy Committee for the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization met at 1:30 p.m., April 17, 2014, in Room 306 of City Hall, 509 South East 7th Avenue, Amarillo, Texas.

Voting members present were: Paul Harpole, Jarrett Atkinson, Brian Eades, H.R. Kelly, Ernie Houdashell, Mark Benton, Kyle Ingham, Dick Davis, Gus Khankarli, and Ron Johnston.

Voting members not present were: Arthur Ware.

Staff coordinators were: Gary Holwick and Travis Muno.

Item 1. Consider approval of the January 16, 2014 meeting minutes.

Paul Harpole, City of Amarillo Mayor, advised the minutes of the previous meeting on January 16, 2014 were ready for consideration. Mayor Harpole asked if there were any corrections to the minutes; there were none.

Dick Davis, Chamber of Commerce, made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mark Benton, Randall County Commissioner, seconded the motion. A vote of 10:0 carried the motion.

Item 2. Consider appointment of Amarillo MPO Policy Committee Citizen Representatives.

Gary Holwick, Amarillo MPO Director, informed the Policy Committee that after a January 2014 revision of the Amarillo MPO Bylaws to reflect a term limit of three (3) years for the Citizen Representatives, with a provision for re-appointment of no more than two consecutive terms, it was time to consider Citizen Representative Members. Mr. Holwick said, after the January meeting, he asked members Dick Davis, Chamber of Commerce, and Kyle Ingham, Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, if they would serve a second term. Both Citizen Representatives agreed to serve another term, and Mr. Holwick asked the membership to approve the appointment of these two members.

Brian Eades, City Commissioner, made a motion to accept the action as presented. H. R. Kelly, Potter County Commissioner, seconded the motion. A vote of 10:0 carried the motion.

Item 3. Consider a 2010-35 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan revision.

Mr. Holwick stated the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and TxDOT had recommended an update of the long-range planning document to better reflect the history of ongoing effort concerning planning for State Loop 335 (SL 335). He said MPO staff had revised the Corridor Studies portion of the 2010-35 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Section 5 – Plan Elements. Mr. Holwick explained this revision of the MTP was to provide greater detail regarding the amount of public involvement, project development, and planning efforts along the SL 335 Corridor throughout the past few years. He asked the Committee to approve this revision of the 2010-35 MTP.

Jarrett Atkinson, City Manager, City of Amarillo, made a motion to adopt the amendment as presented. Mark Benton, seconded the motion. A vote of 10:0 carried the motion.

Item 4. Notification of a 2013-16 Transportation Improvement Program revision.

Travis Muno, MPO Senior Planner, explained that staff felt the Policy Committee should be updated regarding fiscal year adjustments for a FY2016 “grouped” project in the 2013-16 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Muno said the project, a roadway overlay on US Highway 87 from State Loop 335 north to Amarillo Creek, was being moved from FY2016 to FY2014. The TxDOT project is financed with Category 1 (Cat 1) funds and requires no action by the MPO Policy Committee. He told the Committee this update was just to make them aware of the change in the project letting year.

Item 5. Consider the draft 2015-18 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 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). MPO staff had conducted public meetings in November 2013 and February 2014 to prepare

the content of the document. The draft TIP was first presented to the Policy Committee during its quarterly meeting on January 16, 2014. 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, 2014.

Mr. Atkinson mentioned the City's disappointment in removing the S. Georgia St. project from the 2015-2018 TIP, but is grateful the project remains in the long-range plan. Mr. Atkinson emphasized the importance of moving the project back into the TIP, as soon as funding is identified. Discussions were held among the members identifying Cat 1 and Cat 2 funds. Ron Johnston, TxDOT Amarillo District Engineer, said Cat 1 funds, District funding, originate from Legislative Appropriation Requests (LAR) submitted annually from TxDOT. The state approved funds are then distributed over two years for rehab and preventative maintenance projects across the Amarillo District's 17 counties. Cat 2 funding, is a formula based MPO fund that originates with the Amarillo MPO competing with all other MPO's across Texas. **BEGIN REVISION 07172014:** *Kyle Ingham, PRPC Local Government Services, asked, in the future, could the committee get a funding breakdown by year by category for projects included in the TIP. This way the Committee would have a better idea of total funds available for projects. TxDOT staff explained this could be difficult to demonstrate, since projects utilize funding from twelve different funding categories and the TxDOT funds are applied across the 17 counties in the Amarillo District's jurisdiction.* **END REVISION 07172014.** Mayor Harpole asked that the Committee revisit the reverse-ramp project from IH-40 and Soncy Rd going west to Helium Rd because of the addition of newly annexed property and prospective businesses west of Loop 335. Dick Davis asked for further clarification of two projects in FY 2015 that address improving intersections and installation of medians on Loop 335. Ron Johnston and Terry Nix, TxDOT Amarillo District Planner, stated the public involvement process had been completed on the ramp improvements along IH-40 from Coulter St to Loop 335, and this project is moving forward. At this time, Mr. Johnston said public involvement for the project on Loop 335 from SW 45th Ave to BI-40D is yet to be done.

Mr. Muno next presented the public transportation and local projects included in the TIP document. He then asked for the Policy Committee's approval of the draft 2015-18 TIP document.

H. R. Kelly, made a motion to accept the action as presented. Brian Eades, seconded the motion. A vote of 10:0 carried the motion.

Item 6. Consider a Amarillo MPO Project Prioritization Methodology for use as part of the 2015-40 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Mr. Holwick told the Committee that as the number of transportation projects inside the MPO study area grows, a valid means of ranking those projects for advancement was becoming critical. He said use of a project prioritization method was widely accepted by the majority of transportation planning agencies. He said FHWA and TxDOT felt a ranking process was essential to the equitable advancement of projects. The ranking methodology would carry projects from original concept through long-range planning and on to short-range planning documents. Mr. Holwick presented a methodology for prioritizing those projects that could soon become part of the next long-range plan. Examples were given of how the methodology would work using recent transportation projects.

Mr. Holwick stated the MPO Technical Advisory Committee had worked for months to develop the draft process shown in the handout now before the Committee. The proposed process used mobility, safety, traffic, cost effectiveness, as well as local entity support in a scoring matrix to achieve a numerical level for each project. And that project level would be used to then position projects as ranked within the MTP. He cautioned that while the draft was a good overall ranking method, he felt if it was used, revisions would likely be forthcoming. Mr. Holwick asked the Committee's approval for use of the project prioritization methodology in the 2015-40 MTP.

Dick Davis, made a motion to accept the action as presented. Brian Eades, seconded the motion. A vote of 10:0 carried the motion.

Item 7. Presentation & Status Update of Projects by TxDOT – Amarillo District Staff.

Terry Nix addressed the Committee regarding a variety of projects inside the Amarillo MPO study area. Mr. Nix advised of the tentative letting dates, project description, and status updates for the following: the SW 58th Ave project between Georgia and Washington Streets to let in May 2014, the IH-40 ramp improvement project between Coulter St and Loop 335 (Soncy Rd) to let in August, 2014, and the project on Loop 335 from SW 45th to BI-40D will let in July 2015.

Mr. Nix then presented information from the Jacobs Engineering feasibility study to determine the possibility of converting Loop 335 from a non-freeway to a freeway section. The study revealed data projected for 2035 with Amarillo continuing to grow westward. The traffic volume is projected to reach capacity or quadruple along Soncy/Loop 335. The Jacobs study recommended adding a relief route west of Soncy, which reflected traffic counts would remain the same as present day numbers.

Mr. Nix stated in order to compete for project funding statewide, Amarillo needs to stand out. He said IH-40 is part of the primary freight network, with 27,000 miles of road identified; Amarillo is the largest city in Texas on IH-40, thus Amarillo is a major point on the national freight network. Also, IH-27 is on the secondary freight network with 47,000 miles of road identified. With the growth of Amarillo, and the continued growth of traffic, Mr. Nix encouraged the Committee to envision a Loop 335 freeway. Ron Johnston explained the feasibility study is the 1st step in showing what needs to be done. If the decision is made to go forward, a schematic plan would be put into place, the property environmentally cleared, and Loop 335 'held' for as long as needed for completion.

Item 8. 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 9. Adjournment.

Chairman Harpole adjourned the meeting with no further business to discuss.



Gary Holwick
Director, Amarillo MPO

Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee Meeting Attendance Record

Date: April 17, 2014
Time: 1:30 P.M.

Place: Room 306 City Hall,
509 SE 7th Ave, Amarillo, TX

	Name	Organization Represented	Phone Number	E-mail Address
1	GARY HOLMICK	AMARILLO MPO	806 378 6273	gary.holmick@amarillo.gov
2	TERRY NIX	TX DOT	806 356 3273	Terry.Nix@txdot.gov
3	JOHN SOTO	TXDOT	806 356 3267	john.soto@txdot.gov
4	Travis Muno	Amarillo MPO	378-4219	Travis.Muno@amarillo.gov
5	Rev JOHNSON	TXDOT	(806) 356-3201	Rev.Johnson@txdot.gov
6	GUS KHAMARLI	TXDOT	(806) 356-3240	GUS.KHAMARLI@TXDOT.GOV
7	Nathan Kraft	NA	906 433-6963	Kraft.n@jmail.com
8	DAVID ATKINSON	COA		
9	Dick Davis	Chamber of Commerce	806-372-8300	ddavis@arr.net
10	Bob Conner	COA		
11	Blair Johnson	COA	806-379-0511	blair.johnson@txdot.gov
12	Jan Sanders	COA	378-6090	jan.sanders@amarillo.gov

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	Name	Organization Represented	Phone Number	E-mail Address
13	MARK BENTON	RANDALL COUNTY	654-6901	mbenton@wbamarillo.com
14	Mark Reed	City of Amarillo	378-4007	mark.reed@amarillo.gov
15	Bill Egdon	City of Amarillo		-
16	JACKSON ZAHARIA	CITY OF AMARILLO	378-3035	jackson.zaharia@amarillo.gov
17	Ernie Houdashell	Randall Co	468 5500	
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	Name	Organization Represented	Phone Number	E-mail Address
25	BERNARDO FERREL	TXDOT	806 356 3247	bernardo.ferrel@txdot.gov
26	Dustin Davis	ALBA Co.	806 373-4820	dustin.davis@albacounty.com
27	JOE CLARK	TX DOT	325-676-6821	joe.clark@txdot.gov
28	Paul Harpole	COA	6790911	
29	AL KILLY	POTTER COUNTY Comm	674/3571	367 AL KILLY @ Pot. Comm
30	Sam Miller	PETE		
31	L. Kuffel	'		
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