

MINUTES

AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Policy Committee for the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization met at 1:30 p.m., October 18, 2018, in Room 275 of the Simms Building, 808 South Buchanan, Amarillo, Texas.

Voting members present were: Jared Miller, Kyle Ingham, Brian Crawford, Ernie Houdashell, Ginger Nelson, Dick Davis, Kit Black, Mark Benton, and HR Kelly.

Voting members not present were: Eddie Sauer, and Nancy Tanner.

Ex Officio Members present: Randy Criswell, Gary Hinders

Item 1. 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.

There was no new business for the open forum.

Item 2. Discuss and Consider Approval of the July 19, 2018 meeting minutes.

Mayor Ginger Nelson opened the floor to discussion on the minutes from the July meeting. Motion to approve by Kyle Ingham, seconded by Jared. Passed 9-0

Item 3. Consider and Discuss the Bylaws and Suggested MAB Improvements.

Travis Muno talked on the history of the entire process to expand the MAB boundary and the Bylaws, and talked about all the things that had been done so far to update both the MAB and the Bylaws. After the map was accepted, the Policy Board tasked the TAC Committee to review and update the MPO Bylaws, who then selected a smaller board to review and update. Travis went through the new Bylaw draft with the Policy Board to highlight the changes that were made to the Bylaws to include Canyon, Timber Creek, Palisades, and Tanglewood in the Amarillo MAB, and handle how representation would be handled with the new MAB boundary. Mayor Nelson asked if there were any questions about the list of new representatives. Jared Miller asked for a fix of a typo. Kyle Ingham asked if it would be better to have the mayor or the city manager to be on the policy board. Randy Criswell suggested the continuity of having the city manager on the policy board would make more sense than an elected official. Gary Hinders said he had no issue with that. Dick Davis suggested the Mayor to continue along with what is already set up, and that would allow the mayor to appoint the City Manager. He also spoke on how much he enjoyed serving on this board. Mayor Nelson thanked him for his service, and spoke on how grateful the MPO was to have such a qualified person as a public citizen representative.

Travis then explained how the Policy Board did not have a responsibility section, and that the one placed in the draft of the new Bylaws, it was taken directly from the planning contract recently signed by the board. He then spoke on proxy members to keep from having the issues with not having a quorum for the MPO Policy Board meetings. Kyle Ingham suggested having a standardized form for proxy members.

Technical Advisory Committee has been updated to show Director of Capital Projects and Development since the rest of the city positions were directors.

Travis brought up the calendar to look at changing the date for the policy board meetings time. Ginger Nelson asked for a show of hands on whether it's better for morning or afternoons on the first or second Thursday of the month. Terry Nix talked about the necessity for there being enough time for the TAC to work on items for the policy board meetings. The consensus was third Thursday of the month, at 8:30 am at the Simms Building. Dick Davis requested the Traffic Engineer to be on the Technical Advisory Committee. Jared Miller requested to be reminded when the Traffic Engineer position was filled to be placed on the TAC committee.

The section of the bylaws with the MPO director and Staff was pulled straight from the planning contract. Kyle Ingham asked if the Policy Board needed to hear anything about procurement for the staff, this information is listed under the planning contract, but could add if necessary. MPO utilizes those of the fiscal agent.

Terry Nix stated that the bylaws have to be changed prior to the MAB boundary being changed.

Ernie Houdashell asked if there was a way that members of the committee could get their ethics training to stay on the board. Must be redone every two years.

Randy Criswell had a question about calling an unscheduled meeting, and that by having to contact members for a meeting, would be violating the open meetings act. Kyle Schniederjan explained that it was originally pulled out, and thought to have the chair call unscheduled meetings, but the point considered that not all committees got along so they fixed it back. Jared Miller suggested pulling it back to just allowing the chair or the MPO Director.

Jared Miller motioned to approve the changes to the Bylaws pending changes that were noted during the meeting today, contingent on the review of the chair to make sure everything was fixed accordingly. Dick Davis seconded. Motion passes 9-0

Item 4. Consider and Discuss Performance Measures (PM2&PM3)

Travis Muno talked on the Performance Measures that the Amarillo MPO has already approved. The safety targets that were voted to adopt the TxDot targets, and the Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan. TAC has made the recommendation to accept the PM2&3 targets from the state. Travis went further to explain what the two Performance Measures on the docket to vote on were, and how they would affect the MPO, starting with pavement.

Dick Davis asked for a clarification on the 4 dispersal streets downtown. Travis said, yes that all four of those were included.

Travis went on to talk about what good and poor conditions meant, and how they were rated. Terry Nix explained that some streets shown now would be dropped from the NHS (National Highway System) as they are not principal arterials and do not belong on

the NHS.

Kyle Ingham asked if the baseline number was statewide or district. Travis explained that this baseline was determined at the state level. Travis explained what would happen if we didn't meet the performance measures. He explained that this was looked at on a state level, that they only looked at the interstate portions, and funding would be shifted.

Mark Benton asked how pavement was rated. Kit explained, there is someone that does drive around the miles, and checking the pavement for rating.

Travis talked on the Bridge Performance Measures and how bridges were scored for those measures. He explained that the Amarillo bridges that are in poor condition are all the load posted bridges that are currently under construction to change those ratings.

Dick Davis asked if there was a way to look at just city street bridges, and Kit Black confirmed that yes there was. And that they were checked every two years. Travis showed a map showing what the bridges on the NHS were all rated as, and said it took quite a bit of effort to go from a 5 (which is fair) to a 4 (which is poor) It wouldn't just happen overnight, would take quite a bit of stress to change the rating.

Kyle Ingham asked whether these were reasonable for us in Amarillo as we are only at 25% currently, and there is no realistic way for us to be at 50% in four years. Dick Davis asked if this also was reallocated at the state level. And Travis explained that yes that is the case. Kyle Schniederjan explained the necessity for putting in specific targets different from the state's targets.

Through many discussions talking about the situation, it was determined that it would look better for us to accept the state targets, because changing it to be any less, would make it look like the Amarillo MPO is happy with a lower quality.

The recommendation of the TAC committee was to adopt the state standards for bridge and pavement. Dick Davis moved that we moved to support the state targets. Seconded by Brian Crawford. Passed unanimously 8-0

Item 5. Consider and Discuss MPO Goals for MTP.

Travis talked about the MPO Goals, and why these were coming up now, and that these goals were meant to be put into the MTP. The talks from the TAC addressed planning factors, adding things that were not previously in our goals, and condensing others. Travis went over what the TAC's final recommendation was for the MTP Goals to bring for discussion with the Policy Board.

Brian Crawford stated that he appreciated the goal about safety, and Travis explained that it was important to all of the entities and it was added because it is so important to the MPO as a whole. Randy Criswell said it was a very reasonable set of goals. Travis said it would be included in the new chapter of the MTP specifically for goals.

Item 6. Discuss Cat 2 Forumula

Travis explained that TEMPO has been working on updating the CAT 2 formula for funding for MPO's across the state. MPOs couldn't agree on a formula, they had the same basic ideas, but different weights on each item. Travis explained how the new breakdown was, taking the top 6 TMA's and putting the rest who make up the rest of the population. And explaining how they are proposing to change them.

Dick Davis asked about how they calculate congestion, and Travis explained it's a formula put out by TTI.

Kyle Ingham asked if our MPO was at the table during these discussions, Travis explained yes, but that there were more suggestions, that none of the others benefited more than a few MPO's. He also showed a chart showing how the funding will change based on populations.

Item 7. Presentation of the FY 2018 Annual List of Projects.

Travis explained that these are a list of projects completed in the last year. He explained there were no individual projects, but there was transit funding, and some grouped projects that were worked on or let this year.

Mark Benton asked about replacing lights all over town. Kit Black explained, that quite a few of these are parts of the projects themselves, and most are just a refreshing on internal mechanisms. Brian Crawford explained that project number 1 was moving the loop to Helium road was going along very well, and was scheduled to let in January.

Item 8. Discuss Future Agenda Items.

No future items were brought up.

Item 9. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned with no further business to discuss.



Ginger Nelson, Chairman
Amarillo MPO