

MINUTES

AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Policy Committee for the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization met at 1:30 p.m., April 19, 2018, in Room 275 of the Simms Building, 808 South Buchanan, Amarillo, Texas.

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

Voting members not present were: Eddie Sauer, Dick Davis,

Ex Officio Members present: Randy Criswell, Gary Hinders

Non Members Present were: Mansour Shiraz, Bill Frawley, Dustin Diaz, Sonja Gross, Dan Reese, Marita Wellage – Reiley, Alex Guerrero, Floyd Hartman, Jamie Hall, Charles Bufford, Russell Salzan, Matt Miller, Terry Nix, Leslie Schmidt

Staff coordinators were: Travis Muno, and Devin Jones.

Item 2. Consider approval of the January 18, 2018 meeting minutes.

Mayor Nelson opened the meeting with a vote for approval of the January 18, 2018 minutes. Kyle Ingham moved to accept the minutes as they were written. Mark Benton seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Item 3. Discuss and Consider the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Performance Measures.

Travis Muno, MPO Senior Planner explained what the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is, and the process we came to have it completed. Mayor Nelson asked if this has ever been done before in Amarillo, and Travis explained that it has never been required before. Kyle Ingham asked what the repercussions of not meeting the requirements of the MOU are. Travis then explained that nothing will happen at the state level, but there would be a movement of money, but that none would be taken away. Brian Crawford, TxDOT District Engineer also mentioned that the MOU was a formal agreement for roles and responsibilities already in place, that it was just a formal document stating that all parties understood their positions and responsibilities within the MPO. Kyle Ingham asked what would happen if the Policy Board did not vote in the MOU. Travis explained that the TIP and MTP documents would be held up at the Federal level, so the signing of the MOU was required. HR Kelly made a motion to approve, and Jared Miller seconded. The MOU was voted in with a unanimous vote.

Item 4. Discuss and Consider the Approval of the FY18 List of Priority Projects.

Kit Black made a short presentation to show the priority projects. He explained that the Priority Project List had been adopted last year, and that TxDOT was hoping that the Policy Board would approve the updated list again this year. Mark Benton asked if the projected costs included the steel cost increase with the new tariff being put into place. Kit explained, that no that increase had not been calculated. Kyle Ingham asked what percentage of our funding was from the commission awarded funding. Kit explained that it was almost half of our current budget for funded projects. Mark Benton asked about the right of way acquisition, and Kit explained that the process was almost complete. Kyle Ingham asked about direct access to frontage roads, and Kit explained that yes there would be direct access, and that it would not be an issue long term. Kit explained that the amount of money we have is more than usual, but the MPO's priority list helps by lining up projects that are

ready to go, and only awaiting funding. Kyle Ingham asked if a letter from the policy board would be beneficial to acquiring more funding. Brian Crawford acknowledged that anything would help. Jared Miller asked if any of the current projects would meet a 'shovel ready' requirement that comes with many grants that the MPO can apply for. Brian Crawford explained that when a project has a let date, that means that project is shovel ready. The Mayor asked Bill Frawley for possible ideas of what the MPO could do to procure possible funding for the MPO's projects, and explain the importance of them. Bill suggested a resolution, and letters from the separate bodies included within the MPO but not from the MPO Policy Board itself, as the MPO can not lobby for funding. Jared Miller explained, that there were visits planned for himself and the Mayor to make visits to the Texas Legislature, and that they would mention the need in talking with them. Kit asked Bill to explain to the Policy Board what a priority list tells those who decide on funding. Bill explained that it shows good merit for additional funding. Judge Ernie Houdashell asked if new relationships have been established with the new commission chair. Brian explained that Mayor Nelson had talked to the chair and new commissioners and asked about an update. Mayor Nelson and Jared Miller went to Austin and spoke with the new chair trying to establish a relationship. Mark Benton made a motion to approve the new Priority Project List, Nancy Tanner Seconded. The Project Priority List was approved with a unanimous vote.

Item 5. Discuss and Consider Adoption of the 2019-22 Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Document.

Travis Muno gave a presentation on what projects are listed in the Draft TIP. He explained that it had been updated with the safety measures approved in January, the new cost estimates from the Project Priority List, and the added appendix for the Fast Act Requirements. Judge Houdashel asked about the I-27 construction and Terry Nix explained that this project was a previous project that had already been started so it was no longer in the TIP. Jared Miller motioned to approve the TIP, and Judge Houdashell seconded. The Draft TIP document was approved with a unanimous vote.

Item 6. Discuss and Consider Approval of Expansion of the Metropolitan Area Boundary and Suggested Improvements

Travis Muno gave a presentation over the Metropolitan Area Boundary (MAB) showing where it is now, the original boundary change that the TAC brought to the policy board as well as their final recommendation asking for approval. He showed where the urban areas are and where development is. He explained the pros of expanding the boundary, including getting ahead of the MPO's TMA status that was due with the 2020 census, that it could affect funding, and that it would allow the use of funds on I-27 through to the city of Canyon and further for if the city decides to expand it to a 6 lane road. He explained that the MPO would need to update the Bylaws to include new voting members. Judge Houdashell asked if federal approval was needed for the changes. Travis explained that yes, and there were several other things that needed to be done before the MAB could be submitted to be changed, and that the full process took 2-3 months. Kyle Ingham asked if we will have increased funds, or if we should have Canyon pulled in. He worried that pulling in Canyon would detract from either of our current funding. Travis explained that this would not impact the funding in a negative way. Travis also explained that currently, there are about 40,000 cars traveling between Amarillo and Canyon every day. Mayor Nelson spoke about the fact that Amarillo and Canyon are very much thought as together, that most people speak of the two cities together, and that they are thought as one region rather than two separate places.

Kyle Ingham asked how the Canyon Ex Officio representatives felt about the MAB expansion. Gary Hinders, Mayor of Canyon said he viewed it very positively, and that he thinks the expansion is a good idea. Randy Criswell, Canyon City Manager also expressed his positive thoughts, saying that the connectivity between Canyon and Amarillo could not be denied. Jared Miller asked about any cons for expanding the MAB, and Bill and Travis explained there really are none. Jared worried about how this might change our population density, but it was explained that there would be no real change. Judge Houdashell motioned to approve, Judge Nancy Tanner seconded, and the expansion of the MAB was approved with a unanimous vote. Mayor Nelson thanked Randy and Gary for attending. Gary expressed his appreciation for the acceptance of Canyon into the Amarillo MPO MAB.

Item 7. Presentation of the City of Amarillo Capital Improvement Plan.

Kyle Schniederjan, Amarillo City Engineer gave a presentation on Amarillo's Capital Improvement Plan. He explained how working together on sequencing started by sharing information, and encouraged everyone to work together so as best to utilize each other and their resources to do jobs quickly and efficiently. He explained that he wanted to show how ready the city of Amarillo was to work together.

Item 8. Update on MPO Administrator.

Travis explained that AJ, Planning Director of the City of Amarillo had met with a group from the Policy Board to make up the interview panel, and that they had interviews scheduled for the next week. Randy Criswell was added to the group, and the Policy Board members were asked to send their input in on what they'd like from a MPO Administrator as soon as possible.

Item 9. Update on MTP Public Meetings.

Travis updated the policy board on the public meetings, with their dates and times, encouraging them to attend if they could. The MPO would be holding five meetings, four in Amarillo, and one in Canyon. Travis explained that these meetings were purely for information gathering. He also gave an update on the Ad Hoc Committee effort. He said that several candidates had been submitted, but no committee had been selected yet, and asked for any more people the Policy Board could recommend.

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.

Terry Nix brought to the Policy Board that the following week the request for section B-2 of the Loop 335 project would go before the transportation commission to designate B-2 as the South Loop, and that Soncy would be renamed FM 2590.

Item 10. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned with no further business to discuss.

Ginger Nelson, Chairman
Amarillo MPO