

**MINUTES**  
**AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Policy Committee for the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization met at 1:30 p.m., April 18, 2019, 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, and Nancy Tanner, HR Kelly, Eddy Sauer, Kit Black, Kyle Ingham, and Mark Benton

Ex Officio Members not present: Randy Criswell (John Byrns proxy)

**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 January 17, 2019 meeting minutes.**

Mayor Ginger Nelson opened the floor to discussion on the minutes from the January meeting. Jared Miller moved to approved, Eddy Sauer Seconded. Motion passed 10-0

**Item 3. Consider and Discuss Project Selection Process**

Travis explained how the new FAST act has added additional considerations for our project selection process.

Jared Miller asked if any progress had been made towards adding the ability to utilize safety and crash data on roads that do not exist or are new on the Decision Lens software. Terry Nix said that they are working on it, and Travis explained that Decision Lens is only a tool as part of our selection process, that the board has the ultimate decision on what projects go on the Amarillo MPO Priority List.

Kyle Ingham asked if by the Policy Board has a lower chance of getting funding by not selecting the highest project as scored by Decision Lens. Brian Crawford said that he was not exactly sure. Kyle requested that staff ask this question at the next regional MPO meeting.

Kyle Ingham moves to adopt as presented and amended. Nancy Tanner seconded. Motion passes 10-0

**Item 4. Consider and Discuss Project Priority List**

Kit Black presented the Project Priority List to the Policy Board meeting.

Kit talked about how much money is projected to be available to the MPO. The total for construction only is \$183. 83 Million. This does not cover right of way costs or preliminary engineering.

Kit went on to give the Policy Board a review of what all has been done on the Loop 335 project, and priority list projects, in the last year. He explained that Phase one of both B-1 and B-2 have either let, or construction has started in the past year.

Ernie Houdashell asked if TxDOT had acquired all the right of way that they need for B-2 near Greyhawk. Kit and Brian both explained that they took the area to the North of it to obtain the proper right of way.

Ginger Nelson asked if what was being built was the service roads for the future. Kit said yes, that will essentially be what is completed, though that at places where bridges are, the service

roads merge into what will be the main lanes eventually.

Kit then discussed the projects listed on the Priority List that will be let in the next 10 years.

Kyle Ingham asked if there was a need for education on these new roadways. Sonja Gross explained that she was already working on educating the public, and would continue to do so.

Jared Miller asked if the City was moving the utilities, and being reimbursed. Kyle Schniederjan explained that yes, they were, and they just finished the documentation for the reimbursement.

Ginger Nelson asked about the old Soncy Bike Trail, and Kyle Schniederjan explained that TxDOT is making sure that it stays intact. Ginger also asked if the schematics used the new revisions made to the City of Amarillo's Hike and Bike Plan. They said yes, they are just waiting on public input, including the City of Amarillo's recommendation.

The mayor asked about education since B-1 phase 2 is a tie in piece to keep the public informed. Mark Benton suggested a phasing plan, and Ginger asked about signage on the under construction areas along the loop. Brian explained why they decided to do B-1 later, due to construction east of the B-1 Phase 2 area. Ginger Nelson suggested the City utilize their own ability to speak to the public to also saturate the information to the public. The Board decided to work together to saturate Amarillo with the information of what was going on.

Judge Houdashell asked about the unfunded portion of the priority list, and asked about how that funding was going to be obtained. Kit explained that it was just so that the engineers could get started planning these projects, despite how long it might take to get those projects funded. Though the Priority list is planned as a 10 year document, it is understood that it could take longer. Ginger asked if the discretionary fund for this year had been awarded, Brian said that no it had not, but that TxDOT would know by the July Policy Board meeting.

Kyle Ingham explained that he and the judge have been on the board for around 10 years, and these projects that are being done today, were their 'pie in the sky' when they first started, and how those projects had moved up over the years.

Kyle Ingham also asked what the timeline was for the entirety of the project list, and Kit explained that this list was just marked out to be as long as it takes the MPO to obtain funding for each project.

On the I-27 operational improvements project, Kit explained that the decision of the TAC was to figure out what the MPO could do with a set amount of money that would do the most impact. The decision has been to lengthen and reverse the on and off ramps from 45<sup>th</sup> and I-27 North to Downtown where it ends.

Jared explained that this project specifically showed the difference between new and old roads with the Decision Lens score, as opposed to what the MPO Priority Project Selection Process scored it.

Brian Crawford asked if the separated bike lanes were included in the estimate. Kit said that it just depends on this board in what phase that goes. Brian asked if it was specifically included in the C-1 Phase 1 estimate. Kit said he was not sure. Brian asked him to look into that, as it was an important thing to know. Eddy Sauer and Ginger Nelson both explained that the citizens are asking about bike lanes, and that they would like to see the extra right of way purchased to

include these separated bike lanes.

Eddy Sauer asked what happens to the land under the large overpasses. Kit explained it would be a runoff storage. The concern was just to make sure that it is not full of weeds, and an eyesore.

This is an action item. Eddy Sauer Motioned to approve, Mark Benton seconded. Motion passes 9-0.

#### **Item 5. Consider and Discuss Multimodal Plan**

Travis explained where the MPO is with their carryover funding, including a rescission, and that allocating that money would protect it from that rescission. Travis explained that the cost for a full Thoroughfare Plan was looking to be around \$250,000, and that our Carryover funding was right around \$350,000. Travis explained that a Hike and Bike Plan was looking to be around \$250,000 to \$275,000. Travis also offered a Multimodal plan, that would cover both a thoroughfare and hike and bike plan together.

Brian Crawford asked what the TAC recommendation was.

Ernie Houdashell asked about making a few miles of pavement from Bushland to Highway 60. Brian Crawford explained that the type of issue Ernie brought up is something a thoroughfare plan could assist in fixing. Kyle Schniederjan explained that there is a lot of development growing towards Canyon and Bushland.

John Byrn asked if the multimodal would be possible to achieve the details that is needed for a thoroughfare, but also addressing hike, bike, and bus issues.

Kyle asked for a clarification on the timeline. It was explained that the money would be allocated, and decided on in July when the UTP is accepted. Then an RFQ would go out and the MPO would be able to discuss and make changes with that consultant.

Jared suggested that a thoroughfare plan with multimodal aspects would probably be better as it addresses all of the things we need, depending on cost.

Kyle Schniderjan explained that the MPO has a larger scope than each of the entities do on their own. He explained that the details of the plan would be larger, as opposed to the finite details like the cooperation between the city and AISD, and that his suggestion would be for each of the entities to assist with their own more detailed pieces.

Jared suggested that Hike and Bike is not completely an MPO specific need, because of the undeveloped areas that only have a FM road. Kyle Schniderjan countered with the areas like, between Amarillo and Canyon, or Bishop Hills.

Kyle Ingham motioned to allocate the existing Carryover of \$368,000 to a multimodal plan including thoroughfare with a scope to be decided on by the Policy Board at a later date. Seconded by Mark Benton. Motion passes 9-0

#### **Item 6. Discuss Future Agenda Items.**

UPWP to be voted on in July. Updates on Safety measures in October. MPO Boundary Change suggested by Brian Crawford. Kit asked if the body would like a regular update on projects. It was requested for every meeting.

**Item 7. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned with no further business to discuss.



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Jared Miller, Vice Chairman  
Amarillo MPO