

## MINUTES

### AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

The Policy Committee for the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization met at 8:30 a.m., July 18, 2019, 2019, in Room 275 of the Simms Building, 808 South Buchanan, Amarillo, Texas.

Voting members present were: Kyle Ingham, Nancy Tanner, HR Kelly, Mark Benton, , Kit Black, Jared Miller.

Proxy members present were: Tim Sorrells for Ernie Houdashell, and Terry Nix for Brian Crawford.

Voting members not present were: Ginger Nelson, Eddie Sauer, Brian Crawford, and Ernie Houdashell

Staff coordinators were: Travis Muno, Cody Balzen, Devin Jones

#### **Item 1. Open Forum**

Randy Hochstein went over updates for the current MPO projects. The Washington to IH27 is almost complete. B1 Phase 1 IH 27 at SL335 is about 3 months behind schedule, but TxDOT is allowing them to work out of phase so that hopefully, the construction will become ahead of schedule soon. SL 335 from Washington to IH40 /US 60 in Canyon, they are working on installing concrete barrier. The west loop projected started in May, but they are working towards completion, some setbacks with the rain, but should stay on schedule. IH40 From Whitaker Lakeside and Pullman Bridges, the project is 10 months or so behind schedule, they are hoping to gain some time. Hoping to switch traffic at Pullman. Ross/Arthur Bridge at IH-40 behind schedule, but construction is progressing. IH 27 – 26<sup>th</sup> Ave Bridge Widening / IH 40 , hoping to complete in August. IH40/60 overlay, going well and almost complete.

#### **Item 2. Consider the April 18, 2019 meeting minutes**

Jared asked for the Minutes to be approved. Kyle Ingham motioned to Approve, Mark Benton Seconded. Motion passes 9-0

#### **Item 3. Update on MAB Expansion**

Travis revisited the process that the MPO has gone through to get the MAB expansion approved. In May it was signed by the Governor, and everything has been approved. Terry Nix explained that until this fall, the boundary would not change on TxDOT's information.

#### **Item 4. Discuss and Consider FY19 UPWP revision**

Travis explained that currently, the MPO billing statements are a few months behind. As of April, the MPO had used 82% of the Administrative programmed funding, where they have used just over 10% of funding from the short range planning, due to a lack of TIP revisions. Travis is proposing moving \$40,000 out of the short range, and \$20,000 out of the long range plan programmed amount.

Kyle Ingham asked if there was a percentage restrictions on moving this money around. Travis explained that it is only required if moving 25%.

Nancy Tanner motioned to approve, Mark Benton seconded. Motion approved 9-0

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

Jared Miller talked about the new transit facility that was in planning for the City of Amarillo, and how it will help with the multimodal plan.

Travis explained that the Technical Committee has been working on the logistics of the multimodal plan, between listing priorities, and looking at funding numbers. Thoroughfare was

definitely the top priority, followed by Transit, Bicycle, Pedestrian, and finally Freight. Travis then went over the plans that each entity already has that will help with the creation of this Multimodal Plan.

Travis moved on to explain that though the board moved to utilize all the funds from the MPO's carryover, TTI and the TAC committee discussed the need of holding some carryover funding for future expenditures. The decision of the TAC committee was to hold the \$370,000 as a do not exceed amount, but should the bid come in lower, the MPO will be able to hold the difference in reserve.

Kyle Ingham asked if there was a need to make sure that we utilized the oldest funds first from this carryover funding. Phillip Tindall, from the state TxDOT department, stated that the state automatically makes sure the oldest funds are used first.

Kyle Ingham also asked about the terms of 'bid', and Travis explained that we would be utilizing the City of Amarillo's RFQ process, utilizing a board to help decide on the contractor who would be putting the multimodal plan together. The TAC recommendation for the panel was one representative from each entity, and that panel would help define the scope, and interview the contractor. Kyle suggested having an engineer on that panel.

The board decided that each entity could formally submit their member for the panel, and the \$370,000 do not exceed amount for the plan. Mark Benton motioned to approve, Nancy Tanner seconded. Motion approved 9-0.

#### **Item 6. Discuss and Consider FY20 UPWP**

Travis went over what each task within the MPO billing statements were, where each hour is billed for what task, and how that made up the funding usage for the UPWP. Travis explained how the MPO staff calculated the funding allocations for the next Fiscal year. The MPO staff went over several different MPO's funding to calculate a good projection, utilizing several MPOs of comparable size.

Jared Miller asked if there was a requirement to keep a reserve. Travis explained no, there was no requirement to keep a reserve, it's up to the individual MPOs how they want to manage their money. Kyle asked about the numbers for the Administrative task, and why it is smaller for the FY20 as opposed to the substantial chunk of money just approved to be moved in FY19. Travis explained that every year is different, and that given the projected time, he felt like this would be correct.

John Behrns moved to approve, Mark Benton seconded. Motion carries 8-0

#### **Item 7. Discuss and Consider I-27 Support Resolution**

Jared explained that the City of Amarillo approved this back in April. The resolution is supporting the usage of I-27 as the Ports to Plains corridor. Jared stated that Amarillo supported it so long as it did not take away from Loop 335 and it does not seem to.

Travis explained that the state now requested for the MPOs to sign the resolution. They have already received San Angelo, and Lubbock's resolutions, so they are getting close to having all the signatures they need.

Kyle Ingham explained that many of the county judges in the area suggested and included "where as" statement to keep this corridor moving North. Jared Miller agreed that this was a good idea, and asked if Kyle could send that information to the MPO.

The suggestion to add "Whereas the extension of I-27 to the North of Amarillo to the Texas border is important to the freight and Panhandle and the entire state Commerce." TxDOT officials elected to abstain.

Motion to approve with the amendment by Kyle Ingham, Mark Benton seconded. Motion carries 6-0.

#### **Item 8. Presentation for Texas Transportation Commission Scoring of Projects**

Will Atherage, and Cameron Gatty from TxDOT came to explain the way projects were scored, and selected for funding.

Will explained how House Bill 20 and the Texas Administrative Code changed the UTP documents and the way many projects needed to be scored and funded. He spoke about how it was difficult to address the widely diverse needs of the entirety of the state, but by utilizing a number of different formula driven categories, some not, etc. they felt like they were able to properly select and fund projects that met the needs of all parties.

Cameron Gatty explained the 12 month process of the UTP and how TxDOT funded projects. Terry explained that the call for projects is the priority project list that we approve every year. The second quarter is the Evaluation of the funds, reviewing the alignment with strategic plans and local priorities. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter is the recommendation from the TxDOT leadership, and the final Quarter is the decision from the Commission.

Jared asked if there was a way to score utilizing a new road and pulling traffic off of a dangerous road. Will explained that they are talking about adding additional fields, to identify the impact if metrics are unavailable. Cameron also explained this was why the project score and the local priorities are both considered before funding a project.

Cameron explained several things that Amarillo can continue to do or change to include likelihood of project selection. The suggestions listed were as follows: partner using multiple fund sources for agreed top priorities, Continue to fully allocate category 2 and 4U to the region's top priorities, continue to segment large scale objectives into prioritized segments, focus on data quality, provide feedback.

#### **Item 9. Update on Draft UTP**

Kit spoke about how the 2020 UTP looked for Amarillo/Canyon area projects and how the funding fell. Priority Project 3, 4, and 8 have all been fully funded by Category 12 funding through a draft document. It will not be approved until August, but Kit explained he has not seen huge changes once these documents go to public comment. Kyle Ingham asked if it would be appropriate for the board to draft a letter to support this funding structure. He suggested that the MPO staff draft a letter, and have it sent to the board to approve.

#### **Item 10 Draft MTP**

Travis talked about the changes being made to the MTP, and that there would be a 30 day comment period in August. The major changes have been updating the plan to include the new

FAST act requirements, and the expanded MAB. Terry Nix asked when the MTP was due, and Travis explained it would need to be approved in October.

Travis continued going over the MTP, what the requirements are, and what has changed since last year due to the FAST Act, as well as the Demographic Information that was obtained for the creating of this document. Travis went over each section of the MTP giving a short description of what has changed, and been added to the MTP, and the reasons behind those changes.

Terry suggested adding a paragraph on the I-27 corridor to talk about House Bill 1079. Jared agreed, and suggested that some form of literature be added, and work towards showing how I-27 and the loop work well together.

Kyle Ingham asked if Panhandle Community Services had been contacted along with Greyhound for transit, and Travis explained that yes, the MPO staff has been talking to the transit manager there.

**Item 11. Discuss Future Agenda Items.**

Jared wanted to express thanks and appreciation for all the TxDOT staff for how much they had done to help garner the funding for these projects.

September workshop, TTI doing a TMA 101, smaller work items, Communications on the loop website.

**Item 12. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned with no further business to discuss.

---

Ginger Nelson, Chairman  
Amarillo MPO