

MINUTES
AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Policy Committee for the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization met at 8:30 a.m., October 15, 2020, Via Zoom.

Voting members present were: H.R. Kelly, Jared Miller, Kit Black, Kyle Ingham, Blair Johnson, Eddy Sauer, Joe Price Tim Sorrells (for Ernie Houdashell), and Nancy Tanner. .

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

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 mentioned business for the open forum.

Item 2. Discuss and Consider Approval of the July 16th, 2020 meeting minutes.

Nancy Tanner moved to approve as written. Eddie Sauer seconded. Motion passed 9-0

Item 3. Update on Multi Modal Plan

Travis asked Jeff Whitaker from Kimley Horn to make the presentation to the Policy Board on the Multi Modal Plan.

Jeff explained that they wanted to update them with the progress so far, as well as update on the public outreach using Social Pinpoint. He explained that they were in the first third of the process, and that Kimley Horn had to rethink the public involvement strategy due to the ongoing pandemic, and because of that, much of it was online. Through August, they did information gathering, and that they were looking at roughly a year long process. Currently they have been focusing on existing conditions, and making sure that the current environment is understood.

Jeff explained that Social Pinpoint was a way for the public to pinpoint issues via an interactive map, as well as a survey to fill out. It's an ongoing project to gather information from the public, and will be ongoing through January.

The Existing Conditions report looks at documented plans that have already been made, the state of the region through information like population growth and density, crash reports, School information as well as pedestrian and biking networks.

They've also been working on draft Vision and Goals. The Vision statement was "Amarillo Area in Motion seeks to establish a safe, comfortable, and connected multi-modal transportation network and uses technology to provide a high level of service for all users. The Goals are as follows:

- Safe facilities for all modes.
- A well connected network of regional thoroughfares.
- A complete and comfortable bicycle and pedestrian network.
- Integrated transit
- Innovative design and technology
- High level of service for both vehicular and freight traffic

Jeff explained that each Goal would have an action statement, as well as objectives, and actions to complete those objectives. He also went over what they have so far as objectives for

each goal as well as their action statements.

Jeff also spoke on some recommendations of roads that had been planned, and how they should be looked at as Amarillo and Canyon develops.

Eddy Sauer asked what was being done to get the word out about the Social Pinpoint website. Travis is working with Public Relations to get more traffic pointed towards the website, as well as flyers to post around the city. Travis explained that it had been posted to the City of Amarillo's facebook page as well as Community Relations, Amarillo College's campus, WT's campus, city hall, and libraries. Eddy suggested getting some information so others could post on instagram and facebook about it. Jared and Eddy both spoke on how important pedestrian and bike methods, and how they would like to push these surveys with the committees that relate to these needs.

Item 4. Discuss and Consider FY 21 Priority Project List

Kit Black had a presentation for the new Priority Project List to discuss changes that were made. Kit explained that the projects were the same as presented at the workshop in September.

Kit started out looking at funding for the next ten years. The UTP was adopted in August, and establishes funding for the next ten years. The total of which was almost \$311 Million Dollars.

Kit then reviewed the progress on projects already in motion. A-2 is now complete and open, A-1 was also complete and open. B-1 Phase 1 is ongoing, and completion is expected in Summer of 2021. B-2 Phase 1 – Under construction, completion expected by Fall of 2022. C-1 Under Construction, expected Completion Summer 2023.

Kit then showed the recommended Priority Project List, including new recommended projects and their new priority number. Kit went through the first 6 projects on the priority list, as they were deemed the most important, as well as the five new projects that were added this year.

The First project B-1 Phase 2 the "Tie in" piece is set to let for construction in 2021. The second Project was the operational improvements to I-27 as a group project with TxDOT, upgrading median barriers and will also let for Construction in 2021. Project three is Segment C-1 Phase 1 to construct frontage roads on the Northwest section of the loop, and is planned to let in December of 2022. Project number four is to expand I-27 to six lanes from Sundown to US 60 split, set to let in fiscal year 2024.

Recommended project number 5 is the SL335 and IH 27 Interchange Phase 2. A suggested direct connect. It would take money off of the West I-40 interchange, and delay that project, and boost this one upwards. Jared Miller stated that just from the brief information, he could already see how that would have more of an impact, as the I-27 interchange is where the 'pinch' is. Jared explained that most people aren't wanting to go past I-40 from I-27 just yet, but that mostly they want on I-40, so this change would likely be a good one. Judge Tanner and Eddy Sauer both agreed. Kit explained that there was really no negative to not having this fully funded, as it's outside the TIP year. Kyle Ingham stated that timing of encouragement to use the Loop too early might end up in a bad experience in which they will not use the Loop for an extended amount of time. Jared explained that however, that may be, with the construction, it is better than any other option out there right now. Kit talked about putting out signs with travel time.

Project 6 would be the I-40 west interchange Phase 2, and would let in February 2024, but the project also goes from being funded to unfunded.

The new projects are FM 2590, starting from the loop, and all the way to US 60. This project would be operational improvements, adding turning lanes. Tim Sorrells mentioned there was a new school going in.

RM 1061 from RM 2381 to Coulter. Add passing lanes and Widen shoulders, as well as improving intersections. Kyle Ingham asked if this was a roadway that could tap into Ports to Plains money. Kit said he did not believe so, and Jared stated that the feasibility study did not touch that road. Kyle stated that many who go to Colorado take that road. Jared explained that the roadway that goes to New Mexico is up through Dumas.

SL 335 Segment A-3 Intersection improvements, passing lanes, and left turn lanes. A low cost solution to problems before the main portion of A-3 can be funded and constructed. Jared asked if this would precede main lanes on the west side. Kit said no, at least not on the current Priority list. Jared said this was not something needed for quite some time, but given the timing, this looked good. Kit explained this would do things with a minimal price tag.

South Washington, FM 1541, Pedestrian and intersections, constructing shared use paths, and an intersection for future City arterials.

Jared reiterated the changes to the priority projects, and called for comments or a motion. Eddy Sauer moved to accept. Kyle Ingham seconded.

Joe Price asked how much was funded towards the six lane expansion of I-27. Kit explained a little under 50 percent was partially funded, and that the MPO would be seeking to finish funding that with the next UTP. Kyle asked if we could capitalize on previous money we have received, and if we could tap into other funding categories. Kit explained that was the goal, every bit of money that the MPO has is allocated, and should be enticing that these are necessary projects. Jared stated that he's confident that the funding will come through, based on the needs of the area. Joe explained that he feels that's a good project.

Motion carried 9-0

Item 5. Update on Current Construction Projects

Corky Neukam went through the updates on current construction projects.

IH-40 bridge at Whitaker, Lakeside, and Pullman Bridges. They have switched the traffic to the new westbound lanes, they have torn down the west bound bridge at Whitaker and Lakeside. They are in the process of building up temporary ramps at Whitaker, finalizing the concrete pavement on the approaches at Pullman, and the Pullman exit ramp.

The Washington FM 1541 and the loop, the new sidewalk on Washington is installed. They are finishing the asphalt pavement repairs, but are pushing project through the winter and finishing it in the spring.

B1 Phase 1 the traffic is on the main lanes, and have finished the Bell street exit, and now are moving on to Coulter Bridge, and tying in stakeholders. Hoping to pour the deck by

Thanksgiving.

B2 Phase 1, connecting 2590 to I-40. Frontage road is 75% complete, paved and guttered all the way to 34th st. and will finishing next portion as well as drainage on the Northbound side. Finished bridge on Southbound side, will be extending into next year.

B2 Phase 2 connecting frontage roads at IH40 to SW 9th Tie-in. They have moved the embankment, they are currently paving concrete.

Item 6. Discuss Future Agenda Items.

Travis explained that the next meeting in January will be an update on the safety performance measures. There will be some adjustments on some of the performance measures.

There were no other Future Agenda Items discussed.

Item 7. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned with no further business to discuss.

Ginger Nelson, Chairman
Amarillo MPO