

MINUTES

AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

The Policy Committee for the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization met at 1:30 p.m., September 16, 2021, in Room 105 of the City Hall 601 South Buchanan, Amarillo, Texas.

Voting members present were: Blair Johnson, Kit Black, H.R. Kelly, Dan Reece (For Joe Price), Kyle Ingham, Christy Dyer, and Mark Benton.

Voting members not present were: Ginger Nelson, Nancy Tanner, Eddy Sauer

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

Item 1. Public Address (For items on the agenda for Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee consideration)

There was no public comment.

Item 2. Presentation and Discussion on Project Priority

Kit Black made a presentation for the priority project list, and asked for discussion on the priority list since this meeting was a workshop. Kit went over the current ten years, and how much money was in each category of funding for the projects currently funded. Kit talked about the progress that has been made on the Loop. Kit also showed a diagram of when each section of the Loop will be open to traffic.

Project number one – Segment C1 Phase I. The schematic and Environmental Clearance is complete, and they are in the process of acquiring ROW and moving utilities.

Project number two – IH27 Expansion Phase I. Schematic and Environmental Clearance is 90% complete and expected to be finished this winter or by spring of 2022. After that they will move on to ROW acquisition and moving utilities.

Project number three – SL335/IH27 Interchange Phase II – This project would be putting in the main lanes of the Loop passed over in Phase I. Schematic and Environmental Clearance is complete. ROW acquisition and moving utilities is already complete. It is ready to let as soon as funding is available, and is currently about half funded.

Project number four – FM 2590 Operational Improvements. The project limits would start at the Loop and go all the way to US 60 in Canyon. The project adds traffic signals and turn lanes along the corridor. Mark Benton asked if this was Soncy. Kit explained yes. Kyle asked if this was meant to be like a business road with access. Kit explained that it would function like an Arterial. Kyle Schniederjan asked about ROW. Kit explained that the point of the project was how to make the most improvements without having to acquire additional ROW to get the project out sooner. The design was not quite complete but they are hopeful to have it ready to let in 2024.

Project number five – SL335/ I-40 West Interchange Phase II – Interchange over BI-40 and IH – 40. Mark Benton asked if this was going to be a single bridge over it, Kit answered yes, it would be. This project is not funded at all, as the funding was pulled for another project.

Project number six – B-2 Mainlane Phases. At 34th, Soncy and SW 9th. Environmental Clearance is already obtained, and ROW is complete, but the project is not funded.

Project number seven – IH27 Expansion Phase 0 – Upgrade main lanes to a 6-lane facility. Mark

asked if this would make it 6 lanes all the way from downtown Amarillo to Canyon. Kit said that yes that was the scope of the project.

Project number eight – Additional sections of the main lanes. Project B-2 Main lane phases. From 34th to FM 2590. This project can be broken up into smaller pieces for smaller costs as needed.

Project number nine - FM 2590 Operational Improvements. Not a full scope of projects, but Access Control, Traffic Signals, and turn lanes. They have not defined this scope yet, because they want to get the Loop through and open and see the effect before the full scope is determined.

Project number ten and eleven - From Hope to Soncy IH-40 Frontage roads (project ten) , and From Hope to Soncy IH-40 Main lanes (project eleven) widening it to a six lane facility.

Project number twelve – From RM 2381 to Coulter Street. Putting in two Super 2 lanes. Adding passing lanes and shoulders, as well as Intersection Improvements.

Project number thirteen – SE quadrant of the Loop. Operational Improvements, adding Super 2 (passing lanes) Intersection Improvements, and adding left-turn Lanes at Select Arterials.

Project number fourteen – From 58th ave to 0.75 miles South of 58th Ave – Pedestrian and Add Intersection. Construct a shared use path, and intersection for future City Arterial Street. One reason this is so low on the priority list is that we want to time this with the building of the future City street.

Kit asked for any questions. Kyle Ingham said the full list was very well thought out, but wanted to make sure that once C-1 was completed that the full loop would be a four lane divided. Jared Miller asked if it would be full non-stop. Kit explained there would only be two places for a signal.

Kit went on to explain that this priority list helped know where to put funding when extra funds became available. Kyle Ingham asked if there was anything that the body could do to assist with the discretionary funds. Kit's answer – check minute recording.

Kit stated moving forward from today, next month at the full meeting in October, this body would Consider the Priority list for adoption.

Item 3. Discussion Related to becoming a TMA and the MPO's Fiscal Agent Structure

Jared wanted to state that they met with Dr. Jackson and showed them our priority list as well as shovel ready projects.

Bill Frawley from TTI gave a presentation on becoming a TMA.

Bill went over a few basics of what a TMA is. It's determined by population from the census, a 200,000 threshold, and all the MAB is considered a TMA. Some of the federal requirements of a TMA is to have a Congestion Management Process (CMP) to help solve mobility issues. The transit agency representation on Policy Board. Because the transit agency is a city facility, should not need to expand policy board. There is one year to comply on everything. The good news is because TTI is here helping, the Amarillo MPO will be ready well before that time limit.

Every four years there will be a Federal Certification Review. First one is typically within 2-3 years

of TMA designation. Increased overall scrutiny of MPO process.

Bill went on to explain the new funding that would become available once Amarillo became a TMA. Category 7 is a more flexible in its requirements. Generally has a separate call for projects at the MPO's discretion. Category 9 is specifically for bike-ped and other things that go with roadways for alternative transportation. Planning Funding – Primary funding for MPO Operations, Combination of FHWA planning funds and FTA. Formula driven in Texas. TMAS currently receive \$50,000 as part of a set aside before most funds are dispersed.

Bill went on to explain the Staff Task Matrix. This indicated that the Amarillo MPO indicated need for up to 6 FTE's, identified a gap of 2 FTE's which could increase with new TMA requirements.

(see recording for notes)

Jared stated that there has been much talk on this already, so not to have a lack of questions appear like a lack of care.

Mitch Norman from Human Resources spoke to the Policy Board about what their role would be as working forward as the Performance review committee. He spoke about having a proposal and that they would work on them to bring to the policy board to review. He asked if there were any questions or anything the policy board wanted him to consider. Blair asked about a Subcommittee for the policy board. Jared stated he thought that was a great idea. Andrew Freeman mentioned when Travis was out of town, who the rest of the staff would need to report to etc.

Item 4. Update and Discussion on Multimodal Plan

Travis wanted to give an update on this. The body had expressed a desire to keep the momentum going. He explained that the TAC is trying to establish a selection process for those new funding categories, and that will help with implementation for those plans. The TAC gave some guidance for the framework, and the staff will create and the TAC will go in and tweak from that starting place. Travis asked if there was any direction or questions.

Kit spoke about the match for off system roads it was an 80/20 match. Travis said that yes that was correct. Kit said that is why it's important to get the priority list established soon so that the entities can budget for those match costs. Kyle Schniderjan stated that it would be very good for policy board members to speak to their TAC members to work on their desires and needs for that priority list.

Item 5. Discuss Future Agenda Items.

Travis stated that in the October meeting the priority list would be brought to be considered. Then at January our Transit Asset Management, Safety Targets, and hopefully the bylaws.

Item 6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned with no further business to discuss.

Ginger Nelson, Chairman
Amarillo MPO