

MINUTES

AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

The Policy Committee for the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization met at 1:30 p.m., October 21, 2021, in Room 105 of the of City Hall, 601 South Buchanan, Amarillo, Texas.

Voting members present were: Kit Black, Joe Price, Eddy Sauer, H.R. Kelly, Blair Johnson, Kyle Ingham, Mark Benton, Jared Miller, Christy Dyer, and Ginger Nelson

Voting members not present were: Nancy Tanner

Staff coordinators were: Travis Muno, Cody Balzen, and 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. Discuss and Consider Minutes from July Meeting

Mayor Nelson asked if there were any changes to be made. There were no changes. Judge Kelly motioned to Accept the minutes the way presented. Judge Dyer Seconded. The motion passed 9-0

Item 3. Discuss and Consider Allocation of Available Cat 2 and Cat 4U funds

Kit Black gave a presentation on the leftover Cat 2 and Cat 4U funding. He stated that the MPO needed to make sure that all the funds are allocated for when they submit requests for extra funding from the UTP.

Joe Price asked if this would let around the same time as the I-27 project. Kit stated that this would be before that project, and that this project would not reduce any lanes.

The Second project that the TAC suggested to use these funds on was the – project. It brings that project closer to being funded, however still \$46 million unfunded.

Kyle Ingham asked which projects these were on the priority list. Kit explained they are 3 and 4. Joe verified that project number three was the one being taken to the commission to request discretionary funds. Ginger asked what all projects were considered, and Kit explained that is the benefit of having a priority list, is the list was considered. Kyle commended the TAC and TxDOT for putting together the priority list and having it available to make knowing where to place these funds easier.

Kyle moved to approve as presented, Joe Price seconded.

Joe said that he felt that TxDOT going towards discretionary funds to finish funding project three was a good idea.

Motion passes 9-0.

Item 4. Discuss and Consider FY 22 Priority Project List

Kit reviewed the Priority list project presentation from the workshop. He went over the projects that have been completed, listing several projects, when they were completed, and projects currently in process and their projected completion dates.

Kyle asked when the frontage roads would be completed in comparison to the new high school. Kit explained that connection would be adequate. Ginger asked for further explanation. Kit explained that the portion in front of the school will be completed, but the whole project will not be finished. Jared asked how much impact there would be on the Hollywood construction. Kit explained that the curve would stay until the new intersection was up.

Kit pointed out the new priority project numbers, and talked about two that were now in construction out of the priority list. Mayor Nelson gave an update on the I-27 designation and that it is being lobbied for, and hoping to push it through the committee in the base budget.

Kit went on to explain the first four priority projects, that were either fully funded or partially funded.

Kyle asked about the dirt piles in the center, Kit explained that with extra materials, they are trying not to pay to have it hauled off. Mayor Nelson asked if it would be tidied, and Kit explained that yes it would be.

On priority project list item 3 Mark Benton asked if the direct connects would be a third level. Kit explained that the main lanes would be the third level and the Direct connects would technically be a fourth, and that it would be a traditional exit.

Mayor Nelson expressed that the Loop project was being talked about politically all over the state.

HR Kelly Moved to approve as presented. Mark Benton seconded. Motion passes 9-0

Item 5. Discuss and Consider Revision to the 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Travis explained that this revision was just to update the revisions agreed on today.

Blair Johnson moved to approve. Joe Price seconded. Motion passed 9-0

Item 6. TxDOT Update on Existing Construction Project

Corky Neukam gave the update on existing construction projects.

Whittaker, Lakeside, and Pullman bridges on I-40 is 93% complete, In the process of finishing the turnarounds underneath the bridge, switched traffic, has been split back to two sides. Currently they are building the center barrier, and putting in illumination.

The B-1 Project (SL335 and I-27) Traffic has been pushed to frontage roads, and outside lanes while they build the new bell street bridge extension, as well as the coulter bridge. Hoping to finish project in early spring.

Westbound Coulter bridge was placed in August, Eastbound bridge placed in September.

The connector project from Soncy and the loop to 2590. Moving dirt along, not very attractive as far as aesthetically. Before Thanksgiving however, they should be hanging beams. Plan on hanging beams, and then pouring decks in February.

On the Frontage Road project right now working on permanent small signs like stop signs and yield, and one way signs. They are getting ready for a traffic switch. North of Hillside there will be traffic on the frontage roads up to 34th street. Still working on the footprint turnaround. Doing hot mix paving, and getting traffic all around Arden Road.

I-40 and new frontage roads. They finished the new West bound bridge, but had to excavate the east bound side. They switched traffic back in August from East Bound to West bound, and now can work on the East bound Excavation and moving dirt. Mark Benton asked how long the overpass was, and Corky responded with 1000-1100 feet. Mayor Nelson asked what the longest overpass was that they had, Kit Explained it was I-40 at the railroad.

Operational improvements for I-27 Corky explained that they just set up the concrete barriers, and are pushing traffic to the outside two lanes to give the contractors room to work. Removing the chain-link fence and guardrail, moving through first phase of the project. Mark Benton asked if they were going back to the solid concrete barrier. Corky stated that yes they are. Mayor Nelson asked about completion date, and Corky explained that they should be working on that concrete barrier through the next few months, mostly through the winter. The next phase would be the ramp changes and removing the illumination, moving it from the outside to the center. Mayor Nelson asked how long the squeezed down traffic would be, and Corky stated through Christmas at the very least.

US-60 in Canyon, should be wrapping project up before the end of the year. Crossover, eliminating a crossover, and working on a new lighting system.

I-27 – expanding to six lanes. Installing cable barrier and doing some mill and fill. Mark Benton said it was disorienting at night because there was so much light. Mayor Nelson asked if it was better to do it at night, and Blair explained that yes it was especially on I-27 because there was less traffic.

Kyle stated that Corky was talking about signage on the Helium road project, and asked if there were just access roads, how they were going to handle egress, and how that fit in with planning. Corky explained that they have an access management policy manual for allowing plats. The plats are being reviewed with TxDOT to circumvent things turning into Soncy or Coulter. Mayor Nelson asked what happened to those that are not in the city limits. Kyle Schniderjan explained that all of that area is inside the Amarillo ETJ. He also explained that the thoroughfare plan that was adopted by the policy board made a standard across all the entities to keep everyone on the same page, and strengthens their ability to enforce those things.

Joe Price asked how are supply shortages impacting things. Corky stated that it has impacted them for sure, there have been some Covid impacts from crew shortages etc. He stated that they are trying to keep things moving even with labor shortages, which Blair explained they are seeing a lot of labor shortages at the moment.

With no further questions, Corky ended the presentation.

Item 7. Discuss Future Agenda Items.

Kyle asked for a Ports to Plains update.

Blair asked if the MPO had looked at any bike ped things, Ginger suggested putting Aligning Thoroughfare Plans, or a report on this. Ginger asked about an update on the new Transit Station Travis stated that in January would have safety measures, transit management plan, bylaw changes, and the MOU. Travis also stated that MPO staff would be getting ready to kick off TIP plan, and that over the next 8 or 9 months the MPO staff would be working on getting this ready to present in April. Something else the MPO staff is working on is a Title 6 document, and the complaint process.

Kyle asked about how the agreements interact, and Travis said that was something staff would be working on within the next few months.

Eddy asked when we became a TMA, Travis stated that the official designation should be happening next fall. Kyle stated that he felt like an interlocal agreement might be needed.

Item 8. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned with no further business to discuss.

DocuSigned by:

Blair Johnson

Blair Johnson, Acting Chairman
Amarillo MPO