

MINUTES

AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

The Policy Committee for the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization met at 2:30 p.m., March 23, 2022, in Room 105 of the of City Hall, 601 South Buchanan, Amarillo, Texas.

Voting members present were: Kit Black, Nancy Tanner, Mark Benton, Blair Johnson, H.R. Kelly, Dan Reese (for Joe Price) Ginger Nelson, Jared Miller, Freda Powell

Voting members not present were:

Staff coordinators were: Travis Muno

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 February Meeting

Kyle Ingham moved to approve as presented, Jared Miller Seconded. Passed Unanimously.

Item 3. Discuss and Consider MPO Job Descriptions and Reclassifications

Travis Muno gave a little background on this item. It was tabled in both January and February and was brought back for final approval this session. He stated that the MPO would like to change the Administrative Technician position to a Planning Technician, and review the salaries for all positions. He showed the salary ranges the board asked for at the last meeting. Mark Benton asked which four positions there were, Travis stated the MPO Administrator, The Senior Planner, the Transit Management Analyst, and the Administrative Technician. The MPO Administrator would change to MPO Director, and the Administrative Technician would be changed to a Planning Technician. Ginger Nelson gave a brief overview of what was discussed last meeting and that this showed what they had asked for. Kyle Ingham asked if these salaries were independent from the City salary schedule. Travis and Ginger both stated that yes they were. Kit Black asked if these positions were being advertised yet. Travis stated that yes the planner position was posted and only the salary would need to be changed.

Jared asked if there was any recruitment happening and how many applicants he had so far. Travis stated that there were three, but they did not have any actual Transportation Planners. Ginger stated that unless one of these candidates seemed very good for the position, the board did not feel comfortable hiring from these candidates.

Ginger asked if there were any other questions. With none, Jared Miller moved to approve. Ginger stated that the salary change needed to be a future item, they would only be approving the title changes and the salary ranges. Blair Johnson seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

Item 4. Discuss and Consider Creation of MPO Director Evaluation Subcommittee

It was stated that there would be a member from both cities, both counties, and TxDOT on that Subcommittee, and a nomination called for individuals on this committee. The only thing Kyle felt should be added was the actual appointment and recommendation for the Director's salary.

Mark Benton stated that Judge Dyer nominated that he would be on the subcommittee for Randall. Joe Price for Canyon, Nancy Tanner for Potter, Kit Black for TxDot, Jared Miller for the City. Kyle Motioned to Approve, Dan Reese Seconded, the vote passed unanimously.

Item 5. Presentation and Discussion on Annual Listing of Obligated Projects for FY 21

Travis stated that this is not an action item, but a federal requirement to present to the board, and a federal required document. He stated that any project that received funds last fiscal year needed to be listed in this document. With no further questions, Travis moved on to the next item.

Item 6. Presentation and Discussion of Draft 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program

Travis explained what the TIP document was, and stated that if it's approved in April, it will be sent to the Federal Highway department to take effect in October. Travis then further went on to explain what projects would be in the TIP. The only individual project was listed in FY23 to upgrade SL335 to a four-lane divided from 9th to 1719. Mark Benton asked when this project would let. Blair Johnson stated December of this year.

Kyle Ingham asked if they could have this in the format showing the categories for these projects. Travis stated that through the link the information for that could be found in the Draft TIP Document itself. Kit stated that it looks like there are only two projects that the MPO is funding, and that is this project on SL335 and the improvements on 2590. Travis stated that yes he could bring that requested information back at the next meeting for them to see. Kyle stated that showing that the MPO handles their money very well stretching it as far as they can is something very important to highlight.

Travis then provided information on the group projects listed in the TIP document. Travis stated that these were not required because they were not solely MPO money, but they do list them for informational purposes. Travis stated that besides the Group Projects, it also showed transit money. Ginger stated that the at-a-glance papers helped very much before and would like to see those back again. Jared also asked if there would be a map in this document to show these projects. Travis stated yes there was, and Jared noticed he just scrolled too fast and passed them.

Dan Reese asked if project 217 was an overlay project. Kit stated that it was preventative maintenance hopefully with some ADA aspects as well. Kyle Ingham asked if there was any action needed on this item. Travis stated no, that it was simply a presentation to keep the board informed. He stated the dates for the public meeting were, April 7th in Canyon at the Cole Community Center, and April 14th at the Central Library in Amarillo. With no further questions the board moved on to the next item.

Item 7. Presentation and Discussion on Resiliency

Travis introduced Bill Frawley from TTI to speak on the next presentation. Bill stated that this was a new emphasis area that Federal Highways wanted the MPO's around the state to really focus on. Jared asked if they would define resiliency in this presentation.

Bill stated that Resilience was a part of everyday life. Transportation affects every aspect of our life, so our transportation system must be resilient also. Resilience is the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions. Mark Benton asked how this was different from things that we currently do. Bill stated that they simply want to put a spotlight and document these things.

Bill stated that FHWA would want to see how the MPO is looking at Resilience in their project selection. Bill asked for questions or thoughts. Kyle Ingham asked if anyone had looked at tying into existing documents that already highlight these things. Bill stated that is one part of what they

are looking at. Bill asked for things the board could think of that impacted traffic. Ginger stated special funding opportunities, and politics effected resilience too. As well as the pandemic, workforce shortages, and material shortages. Jared Miller stated construction was one as well, especially on single path. Bill suggested dust and fire smoke, Mark Benton and Jared Miller stated that yes they had to shut some roads down due to both of these things recently.

Bill went over a 5 step framework about establishing a Resiliency Improvement Plan, and working toward a better resiliency with the board. He also stated that FHWA suggests looking back about 25 years to try and work on resiliency. Kyle Ingham stated that a lot of the things that Amarillo would run into would be already existing. He stated that he felt like a lot of these things have been handled already, he didn't feel like a full document would be necessary as it would simply reiterate things already done. Bill stated that a suggestion was to at least put something together to show for the benefits offered to those who have one.

Ginger asked if Planning dollars could be spent on these sorts of plans. Bill stated that yes it could. There was quite a bit of discussion of specific situations and some ideas for traffic plans around special events and event centers to start the discussion for these. Jared Miller stated that he felt that resiliency was a good support to existing prioritized projects, but he felt that money was better spent improving projects already prioritized versus spending millions of dollars on a project that might only be helpful once a year or less. Kyle Ingham asked how much money they were looking at for these types of project. Bill stated there weren't solid numbers out just yet. Kyle stated that looking at million dollar projects verses ten thousand dollar projects is what he's looking for. Bill stated those kinds of projects are likely what they're looking for, large scale projects.

Blair's question was that TxDOT had an entire division dedicated to emergency and resiliency, he asked if there was an example out there, or anything. Bill stated that there isn't anything out there just yet, this is a fairly new buzzword going around, but Permian Basin is putting one together currently that should be done in about a year. Jared Miller asked if this plan drove where money was spent, or rather supplemented the consideration of resiliency in existing projects. Bill stated more of the latter, and that it was up to the MPO's to develop them. Ginger stated that the next step would be having Travis bring a format for how the MPO moves forward with a recommendation and explanation on how they would create the resiliency improvement plan. Jared stated he felt the resiliency plan should be focused on the projects that are moving forward.

Item 8. Executive Session

Item 9. Consider and Take Action Concerning Executive Session Matters

Kyle Ingham made a motion to appoint Travis Muno the MPO Director at the minimum salary of \$85,000. Blair Johnson seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously. Jared Miller said he would set up a meeting with the subcommittee, and they would be in contact shortly.

Item 10. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned with no further business to discuss.



Ginger Nelson, Chairman
Amarillo MPO