

MINUTES
AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Policy Committee for the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization met at 1:30 p.m., January 19, 2017, in Room 306 of City Hall, 509 South East 7th Avenue, Amarillo, Texas.

Voting members present were: Paul Harpole, Nancy Tanner, Ernie Houdashell, Kyle Ingham, Dick Davis, Kit Black, Brian Crawford and Mark Nair.

Voting members not present were: Bob Cowell, Mark Benton, and H. R. Kelly.

Staff coordinators were: Gary Holwick and Travis Muno.

Item 1. Consider approval of the October 20, 2016 meeting minutes.

Mayor Harpole advised the minutes of the previous meeting on October 20, 2016 were ready for consideration. Mayor Harpole asked if there were any corrections to the minutes; hearing none, Judge Houdashell made a motion to accept the action as presented. Dick Davis, Chamber of Commerce seconded the motion. A vote of 8:0 carried the motion. Mayor Harpole stated Item 3 would be heard before Item 2 in today's agenda.

Item 3. Presentation regarding Funding Categories used for transportation projects.

Mr. Nix, TxDOT Amarillo District Planner, gave an overview of the funding process mandated by federal and state legislation for transportation projects. He presented information on each of the twelve funding categories utilized in the Unified Transportation Program (UTP) – the State's ten-year transportation plan.

Mr. Nix addressed how the funding categories are used for project funding and advancement. He provided handout materials from the 2017 UTP to give the committee members more information regarding definition and guidance for transportation funding. See the presentation materials in Attachment A.

Item 2. Presentation and Status Update of key projects by TxDOT – Amarillo District staff.

Terry Nix, TxDOT Amarillo District Planner, reported on a variety of projects including those along the IH-40, SL335, & the Soncy Road corridors. The committee was interested and supportive of the projects featured.

Item 4. Information regarding a TxDOT 2017 Unified Transportation Program update.

Mr. Holwick, MPO Director, gave an overview of the 2017 Unified Transportation Program (UTP). He explained that the UTP is a listing of projects and programs that are planned for construction or development within the first ten years of the State's Long Range Plan. He talked about recent legislative changes that include several key planning and programming provisions related to performance metrics, development of 10-year funding use plans, and project prioritization.

He told the Committee that the SL335 projects they had reached consensus on last October were part of the UTP program updates. He said that the Technical Advisory Committee was working on development of additional candidate projects for the Policy Committee's review at the April 2017 meeting.

He told the committee that TxDOT would utilize those projects in the March 2017 UTP Revision Update. He said TxDOT would hold a public meeting for the UTP update on February 23rd at 4:00pm at the TxDOT-Amarillo District office.

Item 5. Information regarding an Amarillo City Transit Feasibility Study.

Travis Muno, MPO Senior Planner and Acting Amarillo City Transit Manager, presented information about the feasibility study being done for the City of Amarillo public transit system by the Barry Goodman Corporation. He said the study will be presented in 4 phases to address best practices and engage heavy public participation, explore other funding opportunities, and more fully integrate transit into the City's overall transportation master plans. While the overall goal is to review the operations, to better serve the public, increase ridership, and reduce delays while being cost efficient. He provided an update of the study's progress thus far. He said in the next week four additional public meetings would be conducted.

Item 6. 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.

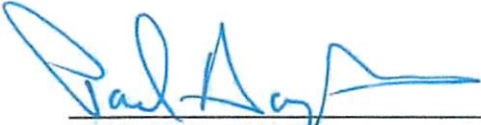
Mayor Harpole inquired about the study on lowering the speed limit along South Soncy Rd. Mr. Crawford advised the study has been completed, and preliminary findings indicate there is evidence to support a lowering of the speed limit. Mr. Crawford stated in the near future the finished study will be presented to the Policy Committee and for action from the City. Mayor Harpole requested an update on the maintenance

and refurbishing of the landscape along IH-27 and IH-40. Mr. Crawford said staff from TxDOT and the City of Amarillo has been outlining a proposal with plans to be presented to the City Council in February. This plan will outline which entity will be responsible and also transition some of the responsibility of maintaining the vegetation.

Kyle Schniederjan, City Engineer, encouraged both counties to send their representatives to the Technical Committee meetings to keep all entities apprised of ongoing discussions pertaining to the priority list of potential projects. Mr. Schniederjan inquired if an on-network or off-network designation is being sought for Soncy Rd after the new alignment of SL 335 is in effect. Kit Black, TxDOT Amarillo District Transportation of Planning & Development Director, advised at this time the item is not on the table. Mr. Schniederjan asked if in Category 11, the \$11.5 million for the Energy Sector has an expiration date. Mr. Black stated while there has been a lull in the Energy Sector funds, there is no expiration date.

Item 7. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned with no further business to discuss.



Paul Harpole, Chairman
Amarillo MPO