



Policy Board Meeting March 16, 2015

Policy Board Members Present

John B. Love III, Chair, Councilman, City of Midland
David Turner, Vice-Chair, Mayor, City of Odessa
Susan Redford, County Judge, Ector County
Robin Donnelly, County Commissioner, Midland County
Bryan Cox, County Judge, Martin County

Policy Board Members Absent:

Mike McAnally, District Engineer, TxDOT-Odessa District
Rob Stephens, General Manager, MOU/D

Others in Attendance:

Cameron Walker, Executive Director, MOTOR MPO
Lorraine Quimiro, Sr. Transportation Planner, MOTOR MPO
Rina Bale, Mobility Manager, MOTOR MPO
James Beauchamp, MOTRAN
Matt Carr, City Engineer, City of Midland
Joe Clark, MPO Coordinator, TxDOT
Hal Feldman, Traffic Coordinator, City of Odessa
John Hellinghausen, Parkhill, Smith, & Cooper
Gary Law, Director of TP&D, TxDOT – Odessa District
Robert Ornelas, Transportation Engineer, TxDOT – Odessa District
Jose Ortiz, Director of Engineering, City of Midland
David Peck, Project Manager, Ector County
Gene Powell, Public Information Officer, TxDOT – Odessa District
Chad Windham, Director of Operations, TxDOT – Odessa District

AGENDA ITEM

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting of the MOTOR Policy Board was called to order at 5:07 p.m. on March 16, 2015 in the MOTOR Conference Room at the Wright Office Complex by Policy Board Chair, John Love.

2. Introductions and Announcements

None

3. Public Comment Period

3a. Hear a brief presentation by staff on the transportation planning process

John expressed his gratitude for appointing him as the Policy Board Chair. He explained the need to understand the process of transportation planning and funding and asked the Board members to educate themselves on transportation issues to better manage MOTOR MPO. John requested MOTOR staff to provide *The Transportation Planning Process* and the *Texas Highway Funding Legislative Primer* to each Board member as reference in understanding the planning process. He asked the TAC members to provide information in easy to comprehend language for better understanding. Perceived disputes should be brought to the MOTOR Policy Board for discussion.

Cameron Walker explained TxDOT having projects “ready to go” so when funding becomes available projects can begin. He suggested another brochure to complement the current one that has project information directly from the MTP. He informed the Board of the outreach activities and the PowerPoint being presented to a variety of groups. The PowerPoint will be e-mailed to Board members for their review.

Cameron presented to the Board an explanation of the role of the MPO and what MOTOR is responsible for in the transportation planning process. He explained funding sources and how transportation planning decisions are made. Transportation has a large impact on economic health and quality of life. Consultants are occasionally contracted to review for possible transportation projects and to determine ideal areas for road construction. The process also includes system preservation and environmental impacts which consist of air quality, effects on social equity, economic development, safety, and security. MOTOR MPO is involved in planning for state system roads; arterial streets are the responsibility of counties/cities. Growth and road construction are constantly increasing so specific steps must be taken in the planning process. Funds are apportioned to TxDOT and MOTOR MPO is a sub-recipient of planning (PL) funds which are a percentage of the gas tax provided for transportation. Cameron explained the documents MOTOR MPO is responsible for preparing and submitting to TxDOT for approval. MOTOR MPO is anticipating training for the Policy Board members by an outside source which will provide additional, more detailed training; a request has been submitted to TxDOT. James Beauchamp asked how projects were determined in the MTP. Cameron explained it was through the recommendations of the TAC. James requested a follow-up to the resolution he provided at the February 25 Policy Board meeting regarding a capacity constraint study. John said they would continue to look into it and asked Cameron and James to work together on getting a study completed.

4. Approve Minutes from February 25, 2015

A motion was made by David Turner and seconded by Susan Redford to accept and approve the February 2, 2015 Policy Board meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approve January 2015 Billing Statements

This was the fourth billing statement for fiscal year 2015. MOTOR expended \$30,445.27 leaving an actual balance of \$205,163.20. MOTOR has exhausted 27.91% of the annual amount of programmed funds. Robin Donnelly requested a statement be placed in the agenda packet informing the Board of the status of FY 2014 carryover funds which are expected from TxDOT.

A motion was made by David Turner and seconded by Bryan Cox to accept and approve the January billing statement as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Approve the commencement of a public comment period to amend the 2015-2018 TIP and the 2015-2040 MTP to add a project to widen FM 1788 in Midland County

Cameron explained the need for the amendments to the TIP and MTP documents. Amendments must be out for public comment for a period of 10-days according to the MOTOR MPO Public Participation Plan. The TIP changes were shown and explained to the Board members. Lorraine Quimiro explained the changes proposed in the MTP.

A motion was made by Susan Redford and seconded by Bryan Cox to commence the opening of the public comment period for TIP and MTP amendments as discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Approve the ranking of projects listed in the draft TxDOT Freight Mobility Plan

Cameron explained the request from TxDOT to rank a list of projects within the Draft Freight Mobility Plan. Seven projects were added to the list through the TAC and Robin Donnelly requested an additional project be added. The TAC ranked each project but there were some conflicts between different entity rankings. The Policy Board instructed MOTOR MPO staff to use the ranking provided by the entity affected (i.e. Midland County, City of Odessa, and others).

A motion was made by Susan Redford and seconded by David Turner to approve the ranking of projects with the assumption opposing rankings would be changed to the agency whose jurisdiction the project is in and the bridge projects would be deferred to TxDOT's decision. The motion passed unanimously.

8. MPO Staff Reports

8a. 60-day Calendar

Staff included a 60-day event calendar to inform the Board of upcoming meetings, hearings and special events.

8b. Regionally Coordinated Transportation Planning (RCTP) Update

Since the meeting was moved to March 18 due to Spring Break, Rina will provide an update at the April meeting.

8c. March Activity Update

Cameron provided an update on March activities. A majority of the staff time was spent on the Freight Mobility Plan ranking. Staff attended the Texas Transportation Commission meeting in February to ensure the amended MOTOR MAB was approved.

9. Agency Project Reports

TxDOT-Odessa District – By Gary Law

TxDOT is working on an agreement to improve Loop 338 frontage roads from Trunk Street to Cargo Road; working with Union Pacific on this project. 191 public meeting will be in early May. TxDOT is revamping the supplemental programming authority which move guidance will be

coming out soon. Friday is a Ports-to-Plains meeting from 9-12; a Uniform Act webinar will be Wednesday, March. 25 at 10 am; MOTOR invited anyone interested to attend the webinar in the MOTOR conference room.

City of Midland – By Jose Ortiz

Fairgrounds Road public hearing Tuesday

County of Midland – By Robin Donnelly

Working on paving and getting CETRZ projects started

City of Odessa – None

County of Ector – None

EZ Rider – None

10. Future Meetings (MOTOR-MPO Conference Room)

Policy Board Meeting – Monday, April 13, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

RCTP Meeting – Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

11. Conduct Executive Session concerning any and all subjects and for any and all purposes permitted by Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, including, but not limited to:

Texas Government Code Section 551.071 for the purposes of consulting with the Board's attorney; Texas Government Code Section 551.072 to deliberate the purchase, lease or value of real property; Texas Government Code Section 551.074 to discuss personnel matters.

12. Take action concerning Executive Session Matters

No action taken

13. Adjourn

A Motion was made by David Turner and seconded by Robin Donnelly to adjourn the meeting at 6:57pm.