



Policy Board Meeting

Zant Room of Saulsbury Center at Odessa College
201 W. University, Odessa, TX 79764

September 19, 2016

Minutes

Policy Board Members Present

John B. Love III	Chair, Councilman, City of Midland
Robert Stephens	General Manager, MOUSD
Bryan Cox	County Judge, Martin County
Ron Eckert	County Judge, Ector County
Robin Donnelly	County Commissioner, Midland County
David Turner	Vice-Chair, Mayor, City of Odessa
John Speed, P.E.	District Engineer, TxDOT Odessa District

Policy Board Members Absent:

None

Others in Attendance:

Cameron Walker	Executive Director, Permian Basin MPO
Lorraine Quimiro	Senior Transportation Planner, Permian Basin MPO
Rina Bale	Mobility Manager, Permian Basin MPO
Rosie Spencer	Administrative Planning Assistant, Permian Basin MPO
Bill Frawley	Research Scientist, TTI
Gary Law	Director of TP&D, TxDOT Odessa District
Chad Windham, P.E.	Director of Operations, TxDOT Odessa District
Hal Feldman	Traffic Coordinator, City of Odessa
David Peck	Project Manager, Ector County
Gene Powell	Public Information Officer, TxDOT Odessa District
Randy Brinlee	Planning Director, City of Odessa
Jose Ortiz	Engineering Services Director, City of Midland
Matt Carr, P.E.	City Engineer, City of Midland
Muslim Hassan	Transportation Engineer, TxDOT Odessa District
Ciro Baeza	TxDOT Odessa District
Gabriel Ramirez	TxDOT Odessa District
Robert Ornelas	Transportation Engineer, TxDOT Odessa District

James Beauchamp	MOTRAN
Dolores Vick	Permian Road Safety Coalition
Joe Hurt	Ratliff Ranch
Kirk Strahan	
Trevor Hawes	Midland Reporter-Telegram

AGENDA ITEM

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting of the Permian Basin MPO Policy Board was called to order at 3:11 p.m. by Policy Board Chair, John B. Love III. A quorum was present.

2. Introductions and Announcements

Everyone introduced themselves, John Speed was introduced as the new District Engineer for TxDOT Odessa District and the new Policy Board member. Cameron also let the Board know that Bill Frawley has been contracted to work with the MPO in a role similar to that of Joe Clark. John thanked him for making the trips to attend these meetings.

3. Public Comment Period

None

4. Approve the Policy Board Minutes from August 15, 2016

John Love pointed out that item 6 did not show when Judge Eckert made the motion to defer, but that it died for lack of a second.

A motion was made by John Speed and seconded by Bryan Cox to accept and approve the August 19, 2016 Policy Board meeting minutes with the correction. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approve the July 2016 billing statement

July is the tenth month in fiscal year 2016, the MPO spent \$32,829.77, leaving the percentage of expenditures at 74.49%. The actual balance of funds is at \$97,533.12. Last month's billing was higher than average and this month is lower even with two months' worth of computer network charges.

A motion was made by Robin Donnelly and seconded by John Speed to approve the July 2016 billing. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Approve the commencement of an amendment to the *Vision 2040* MTP

This item was deferred in June's meeting because the Board and staff wanted to wait on upcoming Unified Transportation Program, which will be approved by the Texas Transportation Commission in August. Staff summarized all the work that is in process at the MPO currently that

could mean upcoming changes to the MTP when completed. The top two are the ongoing I-20 Corridor Study and the Travel Demand Model. Other factors to consider are the hiring of the new District Engineer, Ector County's recent contract with Kimley-Horn and LCA to conduct a study of the Yukon corridor, which is where the project Judge Eckert has voiced he would like to have moved into the top 5 and the underlying reason for the proposed amendment to the MTP. Also, House Bill 20 was passed in 2015 and requires all MPOs and TxDOT to determine what their 10-year plan is. It also describes that there should be project selection criteria determined at the local level. The MPO already has some criteria in the current MTP, but the implementation rules from the Bill have not been established by the HB 20 Committee yet. Lastly, in June the amendment was brought up because there was a desire to swap out current Project 5, which is the overpass at Loop 338 and 52nd/56th St. in Odessa, with a project at Yukon Rd. and Loop 338. This has been discussed at the TAC and Board level with no decisions made until today if the Board approves to direct staff to move forward with beginning the amendment process, which will require a public notice and a 30-day comment period. Staff pointed out that there is enough time to hold off on an amendment since Project 5 is not scheduled until 2021. John Love mentioned that his concern is that the Board has been trying to change its image as perceived by officials at TxDOT that the MPO does not know what it wants. Since the Policy Board is in support of switching these two projects because of the factors given by staff and the fact that there will have to be an MTP amendment after the studies are done, the Board may delay a vote to begin the amendment process today. Discussion began about what money has been spent on the top 5 projects and on where the MPO spends its money in the region. This should not mean to vote against something just because of what county the project is in. Robin stated that he agrees the project Judge Eckert is wanting to put into the top 5 is needed but he believes the scope of the project is questionable. Once the Yukon study is complete, it may change what needs to be done at that intersection. Judge Eckert brought up he felt the Board had decided they would approve this today after deferring it in June, after more discussion David Turner asked the Chair to call the question for a vote. John Speed added that the data coming from the Travel Demand Model will change the perception of the priorities and probably the priorities themselves in the MTP.

A motion was made by Ron Eckert and seconded by David Turner to approve the commencement of an amendment to the Vision 2040 MTP with an opposition from John Love and an abstention from John Speed. The motion passed with a 5-1-1 vote.

7. Presentation by Dolores Vick of the Permian Road Safety Coalition

Dolores Vick gave a presentation about the Permian Road Safety Coalition and their ongoing efforts. She also gave a description about their current **Goal Zero** campaign being promoted for October 13th. John Speed thanked Dolores on the outreach the Coalition does to the smaller communities.

8. Discuss the TxDOT Unified Transportation Program for FY 2017-2026

The Texas Transportation Commission met on the 25th of August to approve a ten-year UTP. Staff provided the Board with documents showing the previous two year's funding and the current funding. One of the spreadsheets shows \$167 million that may be used towards the MPO's planning projects over the ten-year period. Cameron mentioned he and Gary will be attending a TxDOT seminar regarding Category 4 and Category 12 funding on the 5th of October, he expects to hear about additional funding sources the Board can be informed about at next month's meeting. The legislature has requested that TEMPO come up with a new formula of distributing funding between MPOs. The MPO is 1 out of 25 that make up TEMPO and since the early 90s it was determined that 87% of the UTP funding would go to the Transportation Management Areas (TMA) and the other 13% would go to non TMAs. The formula will be discussed on October 4th, which is a day before the meeting previously described. Bill added that at the time the formula was made, there were 8 TMAs which made up roughly 87% of the population. Now there are 11 TMAs by CENSUS designation. The Permian Basin MPO petitioned to become one also but is not included in that funding pool. One of the things being looked at now is to split Category 2 funds between those with a population of over 800,000 to be in one group and those below that population in another. The reason for that is if you look at those areas, the population ranges from about 50,000 to 360,000 and then there is a big gap until you get to around 800,000 and above. The new population split will now be about 82% and 17% with the discussion from the meeting Cameron mentioned on that topic. A new Category 2 formula funding rate is now being anticipated.

9. MPO Staff Reports:

a. 120-Day Calendar: A 4-month calendar is included, all of the MPO's regular meetings are listed including two public meetings at the end of the month to discuss the I-20 Corridor Study. The first is at Hays Elementary in Odessa and the other is at Travis Elementary in Midland. There have been requests by local media for details with the intention that they will be covering the meetings. A Travel Demand Model update is scheduled at 10:30 am on the 28th of September and involves the group who is doing the I-20 Study. John Love encouraged everybody who has been involved in those discussions to attend. Staff will also attend the EZ-Rider board training on the 30th. The Permian Road Safety Coalition is having their rally and forum on the 13th of October and staff asked if the Board would like to keep the November and December meetings on the scheduled dates or if there needed to be changes due to the holidays. John Love asked the other Board members if the November and December meeting dates worked for them and decided to leave them as they are. The Board was also reminded by Cameron that the meeting held outside the MPO office was supposed to be in August, since the outreach meeting was pushed for this month, should staff plan for a November meeting outside the MPO or should they hold off until early next year? The Board again had no issues with either so John Love decided to keep the November meeting at an outside location.

b. Regionally Coordinated Transportation Planning (RCTP) Update: The RTCP Committee met last week on the 14th with about 20 people who attended. The Regional Plan that is due to TxDOT in February is still being complete with public meetings in the rural areas being scheduled. The places considered are Crane, Big Spring, Andrews, Ft. Stockton, and Monahans since RCTP encompasses 17 counties and not Midland/Odessa. Results from these meetings will be incorporated into the Plan. The Committee also spoke about the Plan's goals and objectives and they should be completed at the October meeting. Discussion continues on the transportation workshop that the agencies decided to put together. Rina attended a poverty simulation that was hosted by Midland Cure and the Department of State Health Services. Members would go in and be assigned a character and go through their life in poverty. It was an eye opener in all areas but transportation was the biggest factor since all the offices would not help you unless you had a bus pass since that was proof on how you arrived there. Rina also attended the Permian Basin Community Service Organization meeting and Help the Homeless event in Odessa.

c. 30 Day Activity Update and Social Media Update: Staff worked with the City of Midland to rewrite the scope on the Northeast Feasibility Study. Cameron thanked Matt Carr for the invitation to the meetings and to review the drafts. The MPO has an interlocal agreement with the City and is a financial and planning partner in that study. Staff continues to work with the consultants and stakeholders on the I-20 Corridor Study. The MPO hosted a Livability Workshop that Rina will give details about later and staff also participated in a training program for planning commissioners, elected, and appointed officials in the region. Staff is still working with David Hamm from Peyton's Bikes to participate in a bike ride along the old Bankhead Hwy. which is the first highway to run across the state of Texas. They are also working with Chad to see about placing some signage along the highway that will come before the Board for discussion. Weatherford has already begun honoring the historical highway by placing signs along it and have had a car/bike ride which the MPO would like to do in this area as well to promote the history of the Bankhead Highway. Funds can be used for this since it helps promote tourism. The Permian Basin MPO has 77 likes on Facebook and 27 Twitter followers.

d. Travel Demand Model Development: There was a short meeting on the 15th of this month but the one scheduled for the 28th will be more detailed and is scheduled for about 4 hours. Lunch will be provided so an RSVP would be appreciated so the consultants know how much to order.

e. I-20 Permian Basin Corridor Study: The public meetings have been talked about but there have also been about 540 responses to the survey that went live in June which is a huge public response to a project in the area. There was one response entirely in Spanish.

f. MPO Strategies Update: The update has been placed on the agenda since July so Cameron asked the Board if the paper copy was sufficient or if they would like to discuss it. The update describes how the MPO is addressing the Mission and Vision Statements, goals and objectives that the Board adopted in the Vision 2040 Plan. The Board decided the copies were sufficient.

g. Livability Workshop: The workshop was held at the Atmos Energy building on the 31st of August and was organized by Kirk Fauver from FHWA. Livability is the quality of life so topics discussed how to make it better. There were speakers from TxDOT, EPA, HUD, and FTA and their presentations showed projects they had for livability and sustainability as examples of things that had been done. They also gave a lot of resources as far as getting additional funding which was probably the most useful information given to those who attended.

h. CNG presentation: The MPO has had two meetings with a provider of compressed natural gas who are located near the Schlumberger administration building. They would like to make a presentation to the Board at next month's meeting and are offering a brief tour. The tour would begin at 4:00 so the meeting can begin at 5:00. Robin Donnelly suggested asking Schlumberger to use their facility since it is nearby. Five of the Board members confirmed they would like a tour.

A training guide was left for each Board member that has been distributed to previous members and has useful information.

10. Agency Project Reports

TxDOT-Odessa District – Gary: Part of the meeting Cameron brought up that is taking place October 5th is to discuss the Unified Transportation Plan and how it is being used in programming projects and allow us to get ahead in project development. The other part is House Bill 20 which has a requirement that each MPO have a ten-year project development plan. The discussion will be how the MPO plan will be used and how it will work together with the State plan. This is a new requirement and is in addition to the 4-year STIP and the 25-year Metropolitan Transportation Plan. **Chad:** Additional paving is being done on a section of road in Martin County. I-20 & Loop 250 ramp reconfiguration project was recently completed and 3 other similar projects at FM 1778, E. Loop 338 and West County Road are underway. SH 191 ramp relocation: two of the ramps have been built, the other two are scheduled to open in October. Fairgrounds Rd. project is moving along, most of the paving is done. FM 1788 north of SH 191: they are on the last stage of widening and waiting on some materials, should be wrapping up this fall. Gene Powell added that there is still a lane closure at the Loop 250 bridge that is not related to the project, but because of damage from bridge hits.

City of Midland – Jose: Followed up that the Fairgrounds Rd. project is coming along and will be back to two-way traffic soon. Moving forward with the paving process on Briarwood and doing

work on the Beal Parkway extension. The two bores are still being worked. **Matt:** Gave an update on the changing of the scope on the Northeast Feasibility Study, there is a public meeting scheduled for Tuesday October 11th at the Hispanic Cultural Center near the Sibley Nature Center.

Midland County – Robin: Currently rebuilding CR 60 from SH 158 to FM 1788. Let the bid for the extension of CR 1230 to CR 140 a week ago.

City of Odessa – Hal: Kimley-Horn is in the Right-of-Way acquisition phase on the University Project and construction starts on the 87th widening project, between Dawn and E. Loop 338.

Ector County – David: The sealcoating season has ended, now just focusing on mowing and getting ready for next year.

Martin County – Bryan: Getting close to finishing the TIF Project that has been the main concern for about a year and a half, ended up doing about 88 miles of county roads. Also getting ready for winter.

MOU/D – Rob: Finishing up the design to the maintenance bays, made a recommendation this past month to make some changes to some routes in both cities and are waiting to hear some feedback. Will be purchasing some replacement vehicles the next 2-3 months.

John asked if MOU/D would do an official quarterly update in regards to statistics and any pertinent issues that the Board can look at.

Joe Hurt mentioned he appreciated Cameron coming out and touring the ranch and reviewing development plans for north Odessa. Cameron also pointed out that Kirk Strahan was also in attendance and shared that they had discussed he would look in the current plan and meet again to discuss projects in that northeast quadrant of Odessa. All parties are looking to have a meeting to discuss how this will affect the landowners and developers.

11. Future Meetings

Policy Board Meeting – Monday, October 17, 2016 at 5:00 pm at Schlumberger, CNG tour at 4:00 pm

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – Thursday, October 6, 2016 at 8:00 am

RCTP Meeting – Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 11:30 am

LEAP Rural Rail District Meeting – Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at 8:15 am

12. 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.

13. Take Action Concerning Executive Session Matters

None

14. Adjourn

A motion was made by Robin Donnelly and seconded by Ron Eckert to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.