



Policy Board Special Meeting

9601 Wright Dr., Suite 1

Midland, TX 79706

July 14, 2017

Minutes

Policy Board Members Present

David Turner	Chair, Mayor, City of Odessa
Robin Donnelly	Vice-Chair, County Commissioner, Midland County
John B. Love III	Councilman, City of Midland
Ron Eckert	County Judge, Ector County
John Speed, P.E.	District Engineer, TxDOT Odessa District

Policy Board Members Absent:

Bryan Cox	County Judge, Martin County
Robert Stephens	General Manager, MOUTD

Others in Attendance:

Cameron Walker, AICP	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, AICP	Research Scientist, TTI
Gary Law, P.E.	Director of TP&D, TxDOT Odessa District
Chad Windham, P.E.	Director of Operations, TxDOT Odessa District
Robert Ornelas, P.E.	Transportation Engineer, TxDOT Odessa District
Gene Powell	Public Information Officer, TxDOT Odessa District
Matt Carr, P.E.	City Engineer, City of Midland
Chuck Harrington	Development Services Director, City of Midland
Hal Feldman	Traffic Coordinator, City of Odessa
David Peck	Project Manager, Ector County
Jessica Alexander	Dunaway Associates
James Beauchamp	MOTRAN
Roy Allen	Odessa Chamber of Commerce

AGENDA ITEM

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting of the Permian Basin MPO Policy Board was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Policy Board Chair, David Turner. A quorum was present.

2. Introductions and Announcements

Jessica Alexander from Dunaway introduced herself.

3. Public Comment Period

None

4. Continue discussion on the Vision 2040 MTP Amendment No. 4 Fiscally Constrained Project List

Staff asked the TAC to submit their top priority projects on the I-20 corridor, and off-system and on-system projects then programmed them with the money the MPO believes will be available through the year 2040. This list was presented to the Board at the June meeting and because it was the initial list, staff wanted to give the Board enough time to review it before the official Board meeting later this month which is when staff will ask the Board to vote on opening the MTP public comment period. John Speed stated that the Legislature has required TxDOT to fund a couple of things that were not previously planned in the last UTP proposal. One is the outstanding debt on large projects that was acquired throughout the state. The problem is the cash flow to fund that will come from Fund 6 which is where all the highway dollars are. Until they know how that will be managed, they will not program additional funds in Categories 4 and 12. Projects using those funds will not be included in the UTP proposal that will go out in August. As TxDOT figures out how the cash flow will be managed, there will be a 2018-2019 combined update for the UTP sometime in the Spring, earliest may be March when the selected projects will be included. Anything selected today that is a priority, should still have develop authority and plan authority to allow for a 6-8 month head start. It will also allow for the output of target years on the Travel Demand Model and have a series of corridors that can be analyzed and use objective data to create a prioritization process that we can all agree upon. Mayor Turner wanted to clarify that Category 4 and 12 funds will now be missing from the lists, John Speed mentioned that it will be reassigned based on some combination of MPO input and the Decision Lens software. John Love also wanted to clarify that the money is not going anywhere, the Transportation Commission is just holding their "cards to their chest" until they understand the cash flow situation a little bit better. John Speed mentioned a project that uses both Category 4 and 12 funds at Loop 338 North and Hwy. 385 may not be affected. Gary Law stated that from what he understood, if the project was already approved in the March update it would be safe. But as he spoke with others there was some confusion about it, so he is waiting for the official written statement. Mayor Turner asked if they could forward that to the Board when it comes out. James Beauchamp stated that this situation has occurred before, the Commission must move \$2.4 billion out of the UTP because of the cut from the Legislature. If there was a project that was previously programmed in Category 4 or Category 12, that money is still attached to that project. If the project was to let next year and it had a lot of Category 4 or 12 it could delay

the project or you would need to put more of Category 2 funds into it to supplement it. He does not believe it will affect the advancement of the infrastructure, just may delay it a bit. John Speed added that it may not affect anything at all if the Commission finds some resolution early. The Board asked if project RC-86 which is number 3 on the priority list was safe. Cameron answered that it is not in the UTP but it does not have Category 4 money. John Speed brought up that the MPO needs consulting help to re-do the cost estimates and project scopes. In the case of RC-86, he believes that project could be broken down into two or three projects, one being infinitely smaller than the others. He also believes that after running the TDM to re-evaluate projects on the corridors many of the project cost estimates will drop. Robin Donnelly pointed out that John Speed has brought up three different consulting issues, he then asked if there was money out there or if the MPO had to make applications to TxDOT to do so. John Speed stated that consulting contracts can get started for the projects that are needed, for example there are several projects on Loop 338 that are aligned to an old schematic and others that are outside of that scope. Everything needs to get locked into one scope or study. Discussion continued regarding applications for additional funding. Mayor Turner then listed the projects the Odessa Development Corporation was going to contribute funds to which totals \$11 million. John Speed thanked the ODC for their contribution. Cameron mentioned that some of the projects the ODC will help fund are further down the list. For example, RC-40a is programmed for 2039 and that should not be the case if local funds are used. Robin Donnelly asked if they should just leave the Category 4 money alone for projects that are not scheduled until a later year assuming that money will be freed up by then but John Speed said they should only leave Category 4 funding for the Loop 338 & north Hwy. 385 project mentioned earlier and put \$0 for the rest. The suggestion came up to reverse out the Category 4 to Category 2 with some sort of statement stating that additional funding is expected. This will mean the submitted list will go over the estimated funding coming in. Gary Law added that project development should continue so projects are ready when money becomes available. Mayor Turner asked if \$19 million for an overpass is too high and John Speed answered yes. Gary stated it does depend on the interchange, but for the list he agrees it should be lower. This brought up the topic of bringing in a consultant for the MPO and how long it would take for that process. John Speed added that it is going to be an ongoing need, to make the estimates and keep them updated. Robin Donnelly stated he has never seen money come through the MPO for that purpose and Mayor Turner asked about how much it would cost. John Speed estimates about \$100,000 per year for this. Cameron asked Bill Frawley for his opinion on completing a ten-year list and then make a statement in the amended MTP about being aware that a certain amount of money will be available to us for the remaining time frame but are not ready to commit for anything past ten years. This will allow the MPO to concentrate on the new money that has been contributed and figure out the timing of these projects. Bill answered that it should be fine because the MPO is still showing fiscal constraint for the ten years, but beyond the twenty years the funding is anticipated and data from the TDM can be applied. Cameron added projects beyond 2027 will not be identified but priority corridors may. Cameron then asked the Board to review the list and bump any projects up or down through the year 2027. Commissioner Donnelly suggested only moving projects up and not bumping any down, Cameron then stated that the list would then not be fiscally constrained. After discussion, it was decided that would be ok because money would be freed up after making the changes suggested. The Board reviewed the project list and made the following recommendations; add Category 3 funds to the projects chosen by the ODC,

move projects RC-15a, RC-15b, and RC-13 that Odessa wants along with projects RC-114 and RC-124 that Midland wants into the ten-year list, drop the cost of all overpasses from \$19 million to \$16 million, and take all Category 4 funds out. John Speed brought up the two projects he wants added; one is the traffic signal synchronization effort. He asked Hal Feldman for an update on a dollar figure. Hal answered he did not have one but TxDOT, Midland, and Odessa have been meeting about this coordination of signals between the municipalities. Next week they will meet regarding dollar figures. John Love stated he does not understand what \$10 million is being spent on. What is being coordinated if there are no signals on Hwy. 191. John Speed answered that it is a safety issue, the signals right now are locked and are not able to be controlled in emergency situations. If there is a regional emergency, multiple parties will need to have access to the signals remotely. The other project is traffic signals at certain railroad crossings. Cameron recapped what the Board recommended previously and added that the MPO will not submit a fiscally constrained list because at this time staff does not know when Category 4 funding will become available and have learned that there are several Category 3 commitments from both cities. Also adding the \$10 million for the traffic synchronization project and \$6 million for the railroad signals projects.

5. Future Meetings

Policy Board Meeting – Monday, July 24, 2017 at 5:00 pm

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – Thursday, August 3, 2017 at 8:00 am

RCTP Meeting – Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at 11:30 am

LEAP Rural Rail District Meeting – Tuesday, July 25, 2017 at 8:15 am

Gary mentioned a UTP update meeting being hosted at TxDOT next Thursday at 4:00 pm but it will also be available through webinar.

6. 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.

7. Take Action Concerning Executive Session Matters

None

8. Adjourn

A motion was made by John Love and seconded by Ron Eckert to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.