



Permian Basin MPO Metropolitan Planning Organization

Policy Board Special Meeting
Odessa College
Zant Room in Saulsbury Center
201 W. University Blvd., Odessa, TX 79764
September 25, 2017 3:00 p.m.

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
Robert Stephens	General Manager, MOU/D

Policy Board Members Absent:

Bryan Cox	County Judge, Martin County
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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
Chad Windham, P.E.	Director of Operations, TxDOT Odessa District
Gene Powell	Public Information Officer, TxDOT Odessa District
Hal Feldman	Traffic Coordinator, City of Odessa
Matt Carr, P.E.	City Engineer, City of Midland
Jose Ortiz, P.E.	Engineering Services Director, City of Midland
Jessica Alexander	Dunaway Associates, Midland County
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 3:12 p.m. by Policy Board Chair, David Turner. A quorum was present.

2. Introductions and Announcements

Cameron announced Rina will be leaving the MPO at the end of next month.

3. Public Comment Period

None

4. Approve the Policy Board Minutes from August 21, 2017

A motion was made by John Speed and seconded by Ron Eckert to approve the Policy Board Minutes from August 21, 2017 with an abstention from John Love. The motion passed with 5-0-1 vote.

5. Approve the July Billing Statement

Rosie pointed out there was a typo in the board packet. July was the tenth billing month for FY 2017, the MPO spent \$36,064.64 leaving the MPO at about 77% in expenditures. The actual balance of funds is \$342,577.24.

A motion was made by John Love and seconded by John Speed to approve the July Billing Statement. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Discuss the Travel Demand Model

Staff received an email from Mike Chaney of the Alliance Transportation Group stating that when they submitted the draft model for review by the TxDOT and TTI staffs in Austin, it was determined that some tweaking to the model was needed. The Transportation Planning and Programming Division would like it to be more consistent with their own standard model implementations as they have standardized many model aspects. They are not at liberty to deliver the MPO the completed model and Mike stated it may be about 2-3 weeks to amend the contract with TxDOT and get the model completed within 2-3 months. They did inform the Policy Board at their June meeting that it would be completed soon but after their internal review with TTI and TxDOT it will still be a while before it is completed. Mike did confirm that they would put all of the projects from the MTP Amendment No. 4 into the model.

7. Discuss the Regional Mobility Management Program

Since 2009, the MPO has been the lead agency for the RCTP program. The MPO's role was to help coordinate with all transit providers in the area and would apply for, and receive, about \$25,000 a year in funding to do so. With Rina leaving and staff needing to focus more on the new

upcoming MTP that is due in 2019 and the Travel Demand Model, there may be new responsibilities needed from staff in the office to replace the Mobility Manager position that Rina currently has. The MPO would become a partner to the RCTP group and as of now the new lead agency would be EZ-Rider or the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission. TxDOT will be the one to make that decision. Rina clarified that the MPO will not be hiring a person to replace her, someone with a completely different skill set will be hired to work on the things Cameron mentioned earlier. John L. asked what advantages or disadvantages would the MPO lose or gain with respect to regional mobility management. Rina answered that since funding came with the program, the MPO was not gaining or losing money. However, anywhere between 40%-60% of her time was spent doing RCTP work and if the MPO hires another full-time person they can dedicated 100% to just MPO work. John L. then asked if there is a disadvantage of not having someone involved with RCTP and Rina stated that there could be, but that is why it is important that the MPO continue to stay involved and attend the meetings.

8. MPO Staff Reports

Cameron asked if the November meeting date will work for everyone, the Board decided it will work. Cameron then pointed out the letter that was added to the packet stating the MPO was approved the \$17,258 that was applied for in SPR funds and will come back after staff has more of an idea on how to fund a bike/pedestrian study. When the MPO submitted the application that was what the request was made for and details now need to be finalized. The MPO typically puts \$50,000 in Task 5 for Special Studies, this year it was put somewhere else and all or some of it can be moved into Task 5 to add to the \$17,258, but it is too early to know what amount that will be.

9. Agency Project Reports

TxDOT Odessa District: John S. – The TxDOT project status sheet was included in the packet if anyone had any questions, but did mention that the interchange at N. Loop 338 & US 385 was originally slated to have Loop 338 go across the top of US 385. The City of Odessa has indicated they are working with the Odessa Development Corporation to fund Right-of-Way acquisition and return it to the original schematic which has US 385 going over Loop 338. The change is also warranted since US 385 through Odessa will no longer be a truck route. They are in the process of re-scoping the interchange at Loop 250 & Hwy. 191. Preliminary reports from the consultant indicates that some low-cost things can be done that the City of Midland has already done a couple of months ago. The first project out of the three listed in the MTP will not be needed. The scope of the second project, will now be a larger project, needs to be determined and the dollar value will change. That needs to be locked down before the UTP is finalized. They have asked the consultant for an accelerated delivery of the schematic to redefine the projects that are currently listed in the MTP to better reflect which order the I-20 projects need to be done. He expects to have preliminary estimates done and a scope for those to update the UTP and MTP at an appropriate time. The first report is expected in late October, there should be enough to

be able to be in the March UTP update. Last announcement; Robert Ornelas was promoted to Director of Transportation of Planning and Development after Gary Law's retirement. He has worked closely with Gary for the last couple of years, so John S. believes it will be a smooth transition. **Gene** - The Fairgrounds Rd. project began this week, John L. added that they blocked it off this afternoon. The project on FM 1788 is still going.

John L. wanted to comment on the second project John S. mentioned (Loop 250 & Hwy. 191). Speaking on behalf of the City of Midland, they are committed to doing whatever it takes to make that project work for the benefit of safety as well as saving taxpayers money.

City of Midland: Jose – The city is extending utilities (water and sewer) across Hwy. 349 north of Loop 250, should be done within the next 2-3 weeks, depending on the weather. Contractor is about 80% done with mill and overlay on Cuthbert from A St. to Lamesa. Mill and overlay on Lamesa from BI-20 to I-20 is next. **John L.** – He had to call John S. twice last week regarding Jones Bros. They are doing the resurfacing on Loop 250 and two times he drove by they were taking shortcuts that were creating dangerous situations. For example, they would move a cone to do something quickly as opposed to doing proper traffic control for safety. He wants the Board to be aware and it could turn into a bad situation if it continues. John S. added that it does happen with other contractors, it is important to have the consultants and staff to be the eyes and ears on the ground and help report. He has no problem receiving those calls, it will be an ongoing battle.

Midland County: Robin – Today they accepted a 300 ft. Right-of-Way from Chevron for the extension of CR 1230. **Jessica** – The contractor finished putting base material a couple of weeks ago and are getting ready to pave CR 140 to Midkiff. Were able to partner with Enterprise to get an encasing cap put over one of their older pipelines that is a little shallower than they would like to see. Also were able to put a low water crossing at CR 140 and CR 1210 intersection.

City of Odessa: Hal – The contractor for Atmos is still working on University, going through Dixie right now. Hope to have the interim project out to bid next month and open bids in December to start work in January. 3rd St. is still progressing and 31st St. overlay is complete. **Mayor Turner**- 56th & 52nd as well as 87th St. intersections at Loop 338 have both unfortunately had a fatal accident in the last month. Those are two projects that they are working with TxDOT close with to try and come up with a solution for, traffic is just too fast. Chad mentioned that they installed flashing beacons on Loop 338 saying "intersection ahead" and speed limit signs with the red border rim installed. The speed limit there is 55 but the north is county and the south is city, so they are going to try and have more law enforcement out there. Rob complimented and thanked Hal and the rest of the staff for including EZ-Rider early on with the University corridor plans.

Ector County: Ron – The county was also proactive in handling the intersection at 52nd & 56th St. and he appreciates the measures taken.

Martin County: Absent

MOULD: Rob – Have a couple of construction projects going, hoping to get construction started next month on the two maintenance bays with a pit. They programmed \$2 million and it came out at \$1.6 million with the pit and \$1.4 without it. He does not have a start date for Greyhound to begin operating out of there but a new pad has been laid out along the future Pilot Rd. which is currently dirt and a utility easement at the moment. He is also struggling with employees and is trying to build his staff up to offer great services.

10. Future Meetings

Policy Board Meeting – Monday, October 16, 2017 at 3:00 pm

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – Thursday, October 5, 2017 at 8:00 am

RCTP Meeting – Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 11:30 am

LEAP Rural Rail District Meeting – Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 8:15 am

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.

A motion was made by Robin Donnelly and seconded by John Love to conduct an executive session to discuss personnel. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ron Eckert and seconded by Rob Stephens to come out of Executive Session at 3:58 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Take Action Concerning Executive Session Matters

None

13. Adjourn

A motion was made by John Love and seconded by Rob Stephens to adjourn the meeting at 3:59 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.