



Permian Basin MPO Metropolitan Planning Organization

Policy Board Special Meeting

9601 Wright Dr., Suite 1

Midland, TX 79706

December 18, 2017 5:00 p.m.

Minutes

Policy Board Members Present

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:

David Turner	Chair, Mayor, City of Odessa
Bryan Cox	County Judge, Martin County
Robert Stephens	General Manager, MOU/D

Others in Attendance:

Cameron Walker, AICP	Executive Director, Permian Basin MPO
Lorraine Quimiro	Senior Transportation Planner, Permian Basin MPO
Rosie Spencer	Administrative Planning Assistant, Permian Basin MPO
Kirk Fauver	Environmental Coordinator-Urban Transportation Planner, FHWA
Bill Frawley, AICP	Research Scientist, TTI
Jose Ortiz, P.E.	Engineering Services Director, City of Midland
Chad Windham, P.E.	Director of Operations, TxDOT Odessa District
Robert Ornelas, P.E.	Director of TP&D, TxDOT Odessa District
Gene Powell	Public Information Officer, TxDOT Odessa District
Hal Feldman	Traffic Coordinator, City of Odessa
Jessica Alexander	Dunaway Associates, Midland County
Trevor Hawes	Midland Reporter-Telegram
Gary Law, P.E.	Guest

AGENDA ITEM

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting of the Permian Basin MPO Policy Board was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Policy Board Vice-Chair, Robin Donnelly. A quorum was present.

2. Introductions and Announcements

Cameron introduced Kirk Fauver and Bill Frawley. Cameron also announced and congratulated Jessica for passing her P.E. exam and welcomed Gary Law.

3. Public Comment Period

None

4. Approve the Policy Board Minutes from November 20, 2017

A motion was made by John Love and seconded by John Speed to approve the Policy Board Minutes from November 20, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approve the October Billing Statement

October is the first billing for this fiscal year and the MPO spent \$31,298.21. The percentage of expenditures ended at 6.96%, the MPO has received two work orders one for \$119,733.77 and the other for \$347,062.00. John Love asked why there were two dates for work order number one, Cameron answered the September 29 date is when the work order was sent, but they could not be spent until after October 1 which is the other date listed.

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

6. Approve Permian Basin MPO Safety Targets

All MPOs in Texas are required to adopt safety targets. A presentation was made in November's meeting that was given at the TEMPO meeting on the topic of safety performance measurement and safety targets. TxDOT has adopted its Strategic Highway Safety Plan and most MPOs are passing resolutions in support of TxDOT's targets to reduce the rate of fatalities and serious injuries by 2% across the state over a five-year time period. The presentation given last month had charts showing the rate of fatalities and serious injuries during this time period with and without the 2% reduction. The TAC approved the Permian Basin MPO's support of TxDOT's safety targets earlier this month. Robin asked if the MPO is adopting the statewide plan, Cameron answered that the resolution states the MPO will support the statewide plan adopted by TxDOT. John Speed added that one of the things discussed has been the need to find ways to augment funding for small but important safety projects. Using the 52nd/56th St. as an example, TxDOT was able to get HSIP funding in the amount of \$365,000. Inquiries from Ector County Commissioner's Court have come in about contributing to that project and John Speed mentioned being able to find half a million dollars or so, but it will still leave them several thousand maybe millions of dollars short. He suggested making a future agenda item to look into the possibility of taking Category 2 funding which is usually programmed to projects in later years,

and maybe distribute them to projects like this one that need help with funding and to get them done quickly. John Love stated he is in support of doing whatever it takes to find funding for projects like 52nd & 56th St. and is glad to hear TxDOT is doing what they can to contribute more funding to achieve the 2% goal. Gene added that in addition to what John Speed said, TxDOT is also continuing with their safety campaign. They were at the Jackalopes game recently and will be at the Rockhounds game in April. They will do their part in raising awareness of driver behavior. Judge Eckert mentioned with all the fatalities in that intersection alone, funding a small project like it will make a big impact on the 2% goal. John Speed added that the traffic has increased dramatically over the past year along with the severity of accidents with 157 fatalities this year. He also suggested an agenda item in the future to talk about a plan within the counties. Like a thoroughfare plan, but with safety elements done within a few months or years with Midland, Ector, and Martin Counties. He thinks that will help them get a handle on their priorities while the oilfield traffic volumes are still on the increase. Staff was not able to print the resolution due to issues with the printer, the Board agreed they could sign it at a later date.

A motion was made by John Love and seconded by Judge Eckert to approve the Permian Basin MPO to adopt the state's resolution on safety targets. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Direct the TAC and staff to review the benefits of designating a regional thoroughfare plan

Robin Donnelly stated he wanted this item on the agenda because he is concerned with the fact that there is no planning and zoning control in the county. Even with the 50-ft. ROW, the city wants 120-ft. for all their thoroughfare roads. Since the county cannot control that, he would like the TAC to look into a thoroughfare plan for the three counties in the MAB. If that is instituted, it will allow them to require setbacks, so people are not crowding onto the road which is something he is dealing with on CR 1150. John Love asked if the Board is directing staff and TAC to discuss and make a possible recommendation to the Board for a study in the future that the MPO could possibly contribute funds to. Robin agreed that is what he is wanting with this item. John Speed added that he believes this is a great step in the right direction to make everyone aware of our needs, protecting economic development, and taking care of safety all at the same time.

A motion was made by John Love and seconded by John Speed to direct the TAC and staff to review the benefits of designating a regional thoroughfare plan. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Discuss TxDOT State Planning & Research (SPR) funds and additional PL funds to complete a regional bicycle and pedestrian corridor study

Staff has let the Board know it was approved to spend \$17,258 in SPR funds. After some discussion with people involved in the creation of bicycle/pedestrian paths, the MPO believes an additional \$24,742 in PL funds from Task 1 to be allocated into Task 5 to create a subtask for a bicycle/pedestrian study for a total of \$42,000. Staff believes that is enough to put out an RFP to find consultants who would be able to begin a study on possible inter-city corridor between Midland and Odessa. Staff did not allocate any PL funds in Task 5 with the FY 2018 UPWP because approval on these SPR funds had not been received and staff was waiting on an answer.

\$50,000 is the usual amount the MPO puts in this task for special studies, which would still leave about \$25,000 for a potential study the Board would like to pursue. John Love asked why not just allocating an amount to bring it up to the \$50,000. Cameron answered that when money is put into Task 5, TxDOT requires a specific study or project that money is to go towards. John Love mentioned that although he understands that part, what he wants to know is if \$42,000 is all that is needed for the RFP, and if going for the typical \$50,000 would be a better idea. Cameron answered that he believes that is more than enough to get a response from consultants and if anyone had suggestions to raise the amount he was open to them. This study would not be as detailed as the Northeast Midland Feasibility Study, so he believes that number should work. John Speed asked if this is the first step to a possible two-part study and Cameron answered that is likely. The scope hasn't been generated yet but that will get done after this action has been completed. Judge Eckert mentioned this study may encourage people to bike alongside frac trucks on Hwy. 191. John Love stated it is not about encouraging or discouraging them, but people are out there already riding along them, so it is the MPO's job to try and find a safe alternative. John Speed added that the purpose of the study could establish whether or not bicyclists can ride safely on that route or if a separate facility needs to be established. Judge Eckert agreed that is a good reason for a study, but he also thinks of the bike lane on CR 60 ends when it crosses Holiday Hill Road. A study is a good idea to not have something like that happen again. Jose added that the bike lane Judge Eckert is referring to is the first phase and there are two additional phases. A bike lane was not going to be included but there was such a demand for it, they went ahead and put one in with the idea of finishing it at a later time. John Speed stated that the scope of the study should include alternatives and interim ideas. He asked Gary if he thinks the amount requested is okay, Gary answered that the \$42,000 is reasonable and it should be a two-part scope. Bill added that Texarkana is doing a masterplan, but they have a two-step process as well. Gary also mentioned that if you do not control the work authorizations, a lot of money can be burned up. Staff will bring a UPWP Amendment to move the \$24,742 into Task 5 at a later meeting.

9. MPO Staff Reports

a. 120-Day Calendar: The Board decided to move the January meeting date to the 16th instead of the 15th. Rosie added that January's meeting was going to be held at the Midland Centennial Library, but it was closed on Monday the 15th because of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. She asked if they would like to see if the room will be available on the 16th and have it at 3:30 pm. The Board agreed, but stated if the room is not available at the library, the meeting will be held at the MPO at its regular time, which is 5:00 pm. The Board also decided to move February's meeting from the 19th to the 20th because of President's Day.

b. Coordination with TTI on TxDOT's Safety Program: Robert Wunderlich from TTI is heading up a group of workshops to take TxDOT's Strategic Highway Safety Plan to the larger MPOs. Meetings are being held in Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio but Mr. Wunderlich recognizes the safety issues here in the Permian Basin and wants to have a regional workshop inside the MAB. Staff is trying to find a meeting space for a wide audience in the month of May. Gene suggested having him make a presentation at a PRSC forum because he would probably have more people show and some media as well. Staff stated they will check their schedule.

c. Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program – TIP Amendment: Staff is still working on the schedule to request a TIP amendment in order to incorporate the more than \$500,000 the City of Midland received from the Traditional Alternatives Set-Aside Program for their downtown bicycle/pedestrian facility upgrade.

d. FHWA Approval of the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP) and Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER): FHWA approved two documents the MPO sent to them, the ALOP and the APER. They are required from all MPOs to be submitted within 90 days of the end of the fiscal year and staff will send them to the Board at their request. They were sent to TxDOT for review, then to FHWA and they signed off on them. The documents are basically a recap of projects and what took place in terms of expenditures out of the UPWP in the fiscal year.

e. 30-Day Activity and Social Media Update: Continuing work with the Bicycle Advisory Committee. Discussion regarding the Loop 250 & Hwy. 191 project was brought up with the Midland City Council at their briefing last Tuesday. The MPO hosted a meeting regarding roundabouts, Dunaway and Associates asked staff for the office space and potential roundabouts were shown at FM 1788 at Loop 40. Staff attended a Permian Road Safety Coalition meeting last week and the MPO has 95 likes on Facebook and 62 Twitter followers.

10. Agency Project Reports

TxDOT Odessa District: Robert – Asked if anyone has questions on the map he sent out. Training in January over the Local Government Project Procedures. It is a two-day on January 24th and 25th training and is required that any entity that does work with TxDOT needs it. It does include an environmental training course that is tagging along.

City of Midland: Jose – Atmos is working on their gas line at Woodcrest & Andrews Hwy. Getting bond projects ready for next year but working now on utilities. Last week they had a meeting with residents at Daybreak regarding potential medians on Hwy. 349. Robin Donnelly added that Daybreak is a development north of Loop 250 that has entrances onto Hwy. 349 and clarified the meeting was regarding one of those entrances that will be cut off by the medians. John Love asked about Lamesa Rd. from I-20 to Florida that stopped completely and is wondering what is going on with Jones Bros. Discussion went on about how many jobs they are doing, and many entities are having the same trouble. Jessica added that she was told they do let their employees go home for the holidays. PAVED will be held at UTPB on January 11th. Gene explained it is for minority vendors and underutilized businesses to learn how to contract with TxDOT. Jose added a bid went out for a low water crossing at Carver and Scharbauer Drive.

Midland County: Robin – Waiting on Jones Bros. for paving, acquiring Right-of-Way in southern loop. Condemnation hearing in middle of January.

City of Odessa: Hal – 3rd St. is complete. Mill and overlay job on 23rd St. between Andrews Hwy. and Kermit Hwy. will start in February. They bid out their Right-of-Way Interim Project for University, a public meeting will be held on January 22nd at OC to let the public know about that construction. All the Right-of-Way and easements for that project have been acquired.

Ector County: Judge Eckert – Nothing to report

Martin County: Absent

MOULD: Absent

11. Future Meetings

Policy Board Meeting – Tuesday, January 20, 2018 at 3:00 pm (Midland Centennial Library)

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 8:00 am

LEAP Rural Rail District Meeting – N/A

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 Judge Eckert and seconded by John Love to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.