



Permian Basin MPO Metropolitan Planning Organization

Policy Board Meeting
9601 Wright Dr., Suite 1
Midland, TX 79706
January 16, 2018 5:00 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

Policy Board Members Absent:

Bryan Cox	County Judge, Martin County
Vacant	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
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
Jose Ortiz, P.E.	Engineering Services Director, City of Midland
Jessica Alexander	Dunaway Associates, Midland County
Thomas Kerr, P.E.	Director of Public Works, City of Odessa
Gennie Garcia	General Manager, MOU/D
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 5:08 p.m. by Policy Board Chair, David Turner. A quorum was present.

2. Introductions and Announcements

Gennie Garcia, the new General Manager at EZ-Rider introduced herself. She is not an official member of the Policy Board until the MOUTD Board has a signed resolution with her appointment. Everyone else introduced themselves.

3. Public Comment Period

None

4. Approve the Policy Board Minutes from December 18, 2017

A motion was made by John Speed and seconded by John Love to approve the Policy Board Minutes from December 18, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approve the November Billing Statement

November is the second billing for this fiscal year and the MPO spent \$35,416.87. The percentage of expenditures ended at about 15% and the actual balance is \$400,080.69.

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

6. Approve a Resolution adopting TxDOT's Safety Performance Targets

This item was presented at last month's meeting but due to some printing issues, the resolution was not available to the Board. Staff now has a resolution ready for signature and wanted to give the Board a chance to see what they are approving. The MPO is required to address Safety, Freight, System Performance, Transit Condition, Bridge Condition, and Pavement Condition. TxDOT will take the lead on bridge and pavement conditions along with the system performance, but the MPO will be directly involved in safety, freight, and transit. The first one is safety and the resolution states the Board is adopting TxDOT's performance targets which include a reduction of 2% in the projected increase in the rate of fatalities and serious injuries. Staff showed the rest of the numbers and a table provided by FHWA as an appendix to the resolution.

A motion was made by Robin Donnelly and seconded by John Love to approve a resolution adopting TxDOT's Safety Performance Targets. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Direct staff to hold a public hearing and commence a public comment period to amend the FY 2017-2020 TIP to add a project under TxDOT's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program

\$501,630 was awarded to the City of Midland back in September 2017 from TxDOT's TASA program. This project is to improve downtown's bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, including widening sidewalks, curb extensions and improvements on ADA ramps. There is a 20% match which the city budgeted. This now needs to be added to the TIP for the next UTP update which is anticipated in May. A public meeting will be held at the MPO office to begin the 10-day comment period, any public comments received will be presented to the Board at the February or March meeting.

A motion was made by John Love and seconded by Robin Donnelly to direct staff to hold a public hearing and commence a public comment period to amend the FY 2017-2020 TIP. The motion passed unanimously.

(Mayor Turner left the meeting, making Robin Donnelly in charge.)

8. Presentation on TxDOT's 2017 Highway Safety Improvement Program projects inside the Metropolitan Area Boundary

TxDOT and the City of Odessa applied for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding, staff presented a table and map to the Board and showed it on the screen including all the projects that were approved. They are all programmed for FY 2019, except for one. John Speed added that Kelli Williams is already looking for projects for the next application submittal in the next few weeks. She is the one to contact if anyone has any candidate projects they would like to submit.

9. Discuss programming of MPO Category 2 funds to supplement TxDOT HSIP Funds to install safety improvements on E. Loop 338 at 52nd/56th Streets (MTP project RC-13*a int)

This project is one of the projects to receive the HSIP funding mentioned previously and after talking with TxDOT, the total amount received is not enough to address the needs at that intersection. The project is for signal improvements at \$4.8 million, John Love asked why the cost is so high for signals. Judge Eckert mentioned that on the city side, the road is 52nd St. and on the county side it is 56th St., because of different entities and planning the grading does not match. When a vehicle pulls up to the city side, the road is higher and limits visibility which is producing a safety hazard. There have been many traffic accidents at this intersection, several of which included fatalities. John Speed added that it is not just the signals, the approaches were not designed for an intersection. John Love stated the description should change because all it states is "signal improvements" and with the high cost it could be misleading. He suggested "signal improvements, gradation, etc." John Speed agreed and added that he is currently looking for solutions that may not be so expensive. They are looking at closer to a \$2.5 million solution, which is still being worked on. Judge Eckert wanted to thank all entities for taking this seriously because many people have suffered due to the serious accidents happening there. John Love added that when deadly accidents happen it affects everyone in the Permian Basin because we all have family and friends in the different cities and we work together. John Speed mentioned

that the target year listed for the project is 2022, but that will need to change to 2019 and he has found about a half a million from other sources and one of the Ector County Commissioners is going to be asking the Court to consider contributing as well. He believes if he can get the figure small enough, they might be able to pull from Category 2 funding and have plans ready by September which is next fiscal year. There was discussion regarding what measures TxDOT has done to help in that intersection and Cameron also mentioned that an amendment to the MTP will have to be done to change the year and funding source. John Speed added that there may be some funding left over from the Fairgrounds Rd. overpass project. Cameron stated he will present an amendment to the Board as early as next month to change the description, timing and the amount.

10. Presentation on potential regional thoroughfare plan(s)

After comments made by the Board at last month's meeting, staff brought up the idea of a regional thoroughfare plan to the TAC who also agreed having a document like this would be very beneficial. The TAC recommended that any such document not end at the MAB, that it should include all of Ector, Midland, and Martin Counties. It was also recommended to get outside expertise to help prepare the document. The topic of funding was then brought up, the MPO has about \$25,000 left over in Task 5 but Cameron does not believe that is enough to cover a three-county thoroughfare plan. Since the MPO does not have the authority to adopt a document like this Robin Donnelly mentioned he would go to his colleagues and ask for more funding. He added that since the cities already have thoroughfare plans, there is already a basis of where to go. Judge Eckert stated that the problem with Ector County is the lack of funding for infrastructure. Midland County receives sales tax revenue and Ector County receives none. They rely on property taxes and fees which leaves them with little money in the Highways and Roads budget. Commissioner Donnelly mentioned that the counties do not have the ability to require setbacks and expand on rules like driveways. Judge Eckert stated that may require stakeholder and developer analysis and Commissioner Donnelly told him that the only way to establish setbacks and make sure there is enough Right-of-Way for infrastructure possibilities on Yukon Rd., a road the Judge has emphasized on a lot, is to implement a thoroughfare plan. He added that plans like this also eliminate problems like the 52nd/56th St. intersection. John Love stated he believes the Board is for the thoroughfare plan, the problem is the fiscal constraint, so he would like to steer the conversation in that direction. John Speed suggested that EZ-Rider be included in the discussion because they are undergoing real needs and the nature of transit is going to change in the next few years. John Love asked if there are any funds that TxDOT could contribute and John Speed answered there could be for some small aspects of it. He also asked if TIGER funds could be used for this and Cameron answered that it is for construction not planning but staff would research if there is any other type of funding for this. Cameron believes something like this could cost about \$40,000-\$50,000, the MPO has about \$25,000 already. He has not spoken to Judge Cox about this, but he believes the Judge would want something like this as well, even though he only has a small piece. John Love then brought up expanding the MAB to include all of Martin County because Judge Cox is on the Board and participates but he does only have a small piece in the boundary. There is a lot of construction on the north side that also benefits Midland. John Speed added that an area in west Odessa also needs to be included as well because there are service needs and potential expansion for EZ-Rider. He agrees that the boundary does need to be looked at. Commissioner Donnelly told Judge Eckert that at that price,

Midland County can take the lead if Ector County helps. Judge Eckert stated there is an obvious need for a thoroughfare plan in west Odessa due to the frac trucking and sand mining. Another reason he was upset the sales tax increase was voted against because it would have provided funding for infrastructure improvements on those roads. John Speed asked why not pull in Kermit and make it regional? Discussion went on about adding surrounding cities and possibly getting more funding for the plan from them. Thomas Kerr added that they tried to incorporate some of Ector County in Odessa's Master Plan, he asked how this proposed plan would make that work. Commissioner Donnelly answered that this would take the city's plans and build around that, so everything matches those plans since they are important to how the counties would develop properties. Thomas stated he believes this plan is a good idea, he just wanted to see how it would be done with the cities already having one. The Board agreed that it is worth for staff to keep researching for this proposed plan. Cameron mentioned the TAC was excited for this proposed plan, Jessica Alexander added there was not one negative comment at the TAC meeting and everyone seemed receptive of the idea.

11. MPO Staff Reports

a. 120-Day Calendar: Cameron asked if there were any questions regarding the calendar and pointed out that February's meeting is the third Tuesday (20th) instead of Monday after the Board decided to move the date on account of President's Day. The meeting will be held at its regular time, 5:00 p.m.

b. TAC generated Traffic Count locations map: Back in September, the MPO had the opportunity to ask TxDOT to consider amending their traffic count map to add some locations. Staff presented the map that has the requested traffic counts, locations are growing a lot and was put together by both staff and the TAC.

c. Update on UPRR beautification contract: This agreement first came into existence in 2003 and was renewed in 2013. It is a five-year contract between UP Railroad and four of the taxing entities represented on the Board including City of Odessa with the MPO as the facilitator of the document. Each entity paid a pro-rated amount based on the length of the railroad track in their jurisdiction to allow for their people to go onto the UP Right-of-Way and maintain the weeds, cutting grass, removing shrubs, etc. After two lengthy meetings, staff and the TAC weighed the pros and cons of this document. One of the meetings included a gentleman from UP Railroad from Nebraska who gave the impression that the terms could be amended. The total is \$10,000 for a five-year period; Midland County: \$4,300, City of Midland: \$2,200, Ector County: \$1,200, and the City of Odessa: \$2,300. A smaller group was formed to have more discussion on this topic that did not include Ector or Midland County because it was determined they do not do any maintenance, it is occurring in the cities. If this contract is to be renewed, the group decided on \$1/year payment since the entities are beautifying their asset. The City of Midland's Building Official Steve Thorpe mentioned damage to mowers and other liabilities to citizens from rocks being thrown from the mowers while maintenance was happening. The question became "why continue the contract if there are so many problems?" According to the language in the contract, if the agreement is not renewed any improvements done/built during that time must be removed. City of Midland has put in improvements on Main St. involving shrubs, trees and some brick work that would have to be removed. If the contract is renewed at \$1/year, the entities

would like the ability to maybe look at this corridor for the hike/bike trail since there is enough Right-of-Way and municipal utilities extended along or underneath the track. UP Railroad has not responded, and the contract expires in March. John Love stated that he likes the ideas, but he wants to add for better communication when UP decides to re-grade intersections. He sees work being done that does not correspond to what was done on either side of the tracks. Cameron mentioned that Steve Thorpe had mentioned that we ask for better coordination with UP when certain projects are about to be done.

d. 30-day Activity and Social Media Update: Staff deferred the Board to the packet that has all activity listed and asked if they had any questions or comments.

12. Agency Project Reports

TxDOT Odessa District: Robert – Asked if anyone had questions regarding the status sheet. Nothing else to report.

City of Midland: Jose – Preparing to bid out Woodcrest, extension from Andrews Hwy. to Sinclair. Also preparing to bid out the first year of bond projects. Hoping to award those at the end of February. Working on 2018 mill and in-lay.

Midland County: Jessica – Jones finally began paving the CR 1230 & CR 140 project, the city Antelope Trail portion is complete. First phase of asphalt is down on CR 140 and started the second lift yesterday. Hoping it is warm enough they can continue paving Thursday.

City of Odessa: Absent

Ector County: Judge Eckert – Nothing to report.

Martin County: Absent

MOULD: Gennie – Greyhound has made improvements to the front lobby; City of Midland is helping with paving on the side of the building (Pilot Ave.) where those busses go to load passengers. Jose added they are still in design work and Gennie mentioned her appreciation. Have been approached to purchase property next to them so she is hoping to find the funding to make that happen. Maintenance expansion facility is at the stage where the architect has recommended a contractor so that will be done at the end of September if everything goes as planned.

13. Future Meetings

Policy Board Meeting – Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 5:00 pm

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 1:30 pm

The date and time for this meeting was moved to accommodate Bill Frawley's and the new MPO Coordinator Mansour Shiraz's schedules. Mansour will be taking over some of Bill's responsibilities and wanted to come together to make the introduction and answer any questions

during the transition phase. Commissioner Donnelly asked if he is also TTI, Cameron answered Mansour works for TxDOT.

LEAP Rural Rail District Meeting – N/A

14. 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.

15. Take Action Concerning Executive Session Matters

None

16. Adjourn

A motion was made by John Love and seconded by John Speed to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.