



# Permian Basin MPO Metropolitan Planning Organization

## **Policy Board Meeting**

Centennial Library  
2503 W. Loop 250  
Midland, TX 79705

**March 19, 2018 3:00 p.m.**

## **Minutes**

### **Policy Board Members Present**

Robin Donnelly	Chair, County Commissioner, Midland County
Bryan Cox	County Judge, Martin County
Ron Eckert	County Judge, Ector County
John Speed, P.E.	District Engineer, TxDOT Odessa District

### **Policy Board Members Absent:**

John B. Love III	Vice-Chair, Councilman, City of Midland
David Turner	Mayor, City of Odessa
Vacant	MOUTD

### **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
Bill Frawley	Research Scientist, TTI
Robert Ornelas, P.E.	Director of TP&D, TxDOT Odessa District
Chad Windham, P.E.	Director of Operations, TxDOT Odessa District
Gene Powell	Public Information Officer, TxDOT Odessa District
Gabriel Ramirez, P.E.	Advanced Planning Engineer, TxDOT Odessa District
Jessica Alexander, P.E.	Dunaway Associates, Midland County
Jose Ortiz, P.E.	Engineering Services Director, City of Midland
Matt Carr, P.E.	City Engineer, City of Midland
Charles Harrington	Director of Development Services, City of Midland
Hal Feldman	Traffic Coordinator, City of Odessa

Gary Law, P.E.  
Trevor Hawes

Director of Project Development, MDC  
Midland Reporter-Telegram

## **AGENDA ITEM**

### **1. Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting of the Permian Basin MPO Policy Board was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Policy Board Chair, Robin Donnelly. A quorum was present.

### **2. Introductions and Announcements**

Cameron thanked Bill Frawley for traveling to Midland to attend the meeting.

### **3. Public Comment Period**

None

### **4. Approve the Policy Board Minutes from February 20, 2018**

A motion was made by John Speed and seconded by Judge Cox to approve the Policy Board Minutes from February 20, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

### **5. Approve the January 2018 Billing Statement**

January is the fourth billing for FY 2018 and the MPO spent \$37,991.98. The percentage of expenditures ended at about 30% and the actual balance is \$334,548.94. Cameron added that since staff has been short one person since last October, the MPO is below the average percentage of expenditures for a third of the fiscal year.

A motion was made by John Speed and seconded by Judge Eckert to approve the January Billing Statement. The motion passed unanimously.

### **6. Approve FY 2017 – 2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment No. 2**

The reason for this amendment is so the City of Midland could have access to the money that was approved by TxDOT's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program. The amount approved was \$501,630 with a required 20% match, the City of Midland contributed \$125,408. The project will add bike lanes, curb extensions for safer pedestrian crossings in the downtown area, install ADA ramps, signage improvements, and crosswalk striping as well. The City of Midland is ready to utilize the funds, but it takes the inclusion of this project into the TIP before they could be released. John asked if the total of the funds were about \$627,000 or the \$501,630? Cameron answered the total is \$627,038 and John asked which number shows up in the TIP, staff showed the list on the screen and \$627,038 is the total, it shows the total Midland contributed and the federal total that comes from TxDOT.

A motion was made by John Speed and seconded by Judge Cox to approve the FY 2017 – 2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment No 2. The motion passed unanimously.

## **7. MPO Staff Reports**

**a. 120-Day Calendar:** Staff is currently trying to find good locations to hold public meetings for the new 25-year MTP which is due to the Board for approval in November of 2019. Creating the document takes a lot of time and a lot of public involvement and the best way to do this is to hold many workshops throughout the area. We have confirmed the EZ Rider building, Centennial Library and the MLK Center in Midland for meetings in April but have been having trouble getting an Odessa location. Staff reached out to the school district since they have let the MPO hold meetings at various schools before, but they cannot approve overtime for staff. Judge Eckert suggested reaching out to Odessa College and UTPB for locations.

**b. Update on 52<sup>nd</sup>/56<sup>th</sup> St. project at E. Loop 338:** This project has been in discussion for the last four to six months and this update is to talk about the timeline. It was originally scheduled for 2022 but was moved up to 2019 for many reasons. Safety was a big reason and there have already been some improvements by TxDOT to alert drivers of the upcoming intersection. TxDOT Odessa District applied for and was approved for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds last September in the amount of \$394,000 to go towards this project. John Speed has stated he would include half a million in Category 11 (District Discretionary) funds as well. Other funds being included are \$1.2 million of Category 2 money from the MPO, \$200,000 from Ector County, and \$500,000 from the Odessa Development Corporation. All of this funding has been approved for this purpose and it was thought an MTP amendment was needed, but this project is a grouped MPO project which used to be called a grouped CSJ project. This means that not every improvement needs to be listed as a line item in the TIP and will allow the MPO to go back and make minor changes to the plan to help expedite projects such as this one. John asked how the MPO could prevent the projects that fall in the grouped category from being hidden from the public and mentioned he would like it to be as transparent as possible. He knows they are in the MTP, but like Cameron said, they are not individually listed. Cameron suggested another appendix and Robert mentioned that they will be individually listed in the UTP if it is Category 2. John also suggested maybe having a link on the MPO website to those projects, or maybe look at how other MPOs do it. He stated he would like for there to be a record the public can look at regarding a project that has been discussed for so long. Cameron agreed and suggested it can be a discussion for a future meeting to figure out what could be the best way to do it. Judge Eckert thanked John and TxDOT on behalf of Ector County for the efforts to speed the project up. John thanked Ector County and the City of Odessa for contributing funds as well mentioning that these efforts go a long way. John stated that there are many projects going on that border the exterior of the MPO boundary, for example the bridge over I-20 and BI-20 outside of Stanton. The most cost-effective way to deal with that bridge is demolition and rebuild from scratch. He asked if since it is on the outskirts of the MPO and they will also be working on aligning the frontage roads with the roads within the MPO, should that be something that should also be tracked as a grouped project or just deal with them on an individual basis. Cameron mentioned that when bridges are repaired after being hit on I-20, they do not typically show up as grouped projects because there are no Category 2 funds involved in it. John then stated there may be an opportunity to get some kind of economic development interest. MDC has expressed interest and an example is the Midkiff project. Commissioner Donnelly mentioned it would be difficult to report, the MPO only handles Category 2 funds, John added that he just wants to be sure the MPO is being transparent with the public and that things aren't being hidden. Commissioner

Donnelly stated it could be an overwhelming amount of data, if it is a project that has Category 2 funding or is within the MPO boundary, he is for listing it, but if it is not he is not sure how to promote it and he would definitely want to hear about it if it is within the counties. John ended stating he just wanted to be sure the public knew where to go for information and it seemed like everyone is comfortable with the information we provide now. Cameron agreed and added maybe another meeting with staff and TxDOT to discuss this topic further to make sure there is no perception that the MPO is not telling the whole story. Cameron pointed out there is a list in the MTP that shows all grouped projects, Commissioner Donnelly added he did not realize that this project (52<sup>nd</sup>/56<sup>th</sup> St.) had been split and only a portion was moved into the funded list. John let him know that the project had been split maybe a year or so ago.

**c: Update on Permian Basin Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee:** The Committee went over the RFP line-by-line that the MPO published seeking consultant help to connect the western portion of Midland to the eastern portion of Odessa with a multi-modal corridor. The document is ready and on the MPO's webpage after it was reviewed by City of Odessa legal staff as well. Cameron reminded everyone that there is about \$17,500 in SPR money and staff requested the Board allocate about \$24,500 to total about \$42,000 towards this study.

**d. 30-day Activity and Social Media Update:** Cameron attended the TEMPO meeting earlier this month, they are about to release how they will distribute Category 2 funds. There have been several meetings discussing how TEMPO will suggest to TxDOT how the formula distribution numbers should be refined. He believes that in the next couple of months a recommendation will come from TEMPO to TxDOT Administration. Commissioner Donnelly stated he believed that the numbers are based on population, Cameron answered that there are many factors including road miles and crashes, but yes population is one of the main ones. Commissioner Donnelly then asked Cameron what he feels is the reason for changing the distribution numbers, Cameron answered that he believes the smaller MPO areas have grown and if they continue to allocate just based off population, the bigger MPOs will always get the most money at a faster rate and the smaller areas will continue to stay behind the curve on funds. Cameron mentioned he would present the numbers after it is released. Bill added more insight about the issue and gave some of the other formulas being suggested at TEMPO. Staff attended today's Road Safety Coalition meeting and Cameron encouraged the Board to attend these meetings when they can. He suggested one of their representatives would be glad to speak at one of these meetings and mentioned John Speed and Gary Law have both spoken at one of the coalition meetings as well. The MPO has 100 Facebook likes and 66 followers on Twitter.

## **8. Agency Project Reports**

**TxDOT Odessa District: Robert** – The BI-20 project let earlier this month for \$11.2 million. Jones Bros. was the low bidder and the November STIP revision was finally approved on February 27<sup>th</sup>, so the FM3503 is good to go for April letting. **John** - Wanted to add that TxDOT will be taking an active role in using the Road Safety Coalition as a means to get information out to various areas where construction will be done and where there is a lot of petroleum activity going on. One of those is coordination out of the Delaware Basin on Hwy. 285. There will be another route down FM1787, south of Midland. The reason for this coordination is there will be multiple projects going on at the same time, all the funding showed up at once so all they can do now is just

coordinate it. The coalition will provide information on any work they plan to do on those corridors and he hopes that information will spill over to guide the MPO about any future needs. It may be a good opportunity to assign the TAC to look at the current projects and revisit them from the standpoint of the growth in the petroleum industry and the use of the routes coming into the MPO boundary that are being damaged.

**City of Midland: Jose** – Kimley-Horn is under contract to develop a concept drawing for the corridor of SH 158 north of 191 to CR 60 or Briarwood. Judge Eckert asked about the signal at Briarwood and 158. Jose answered that warrants are met for the signal at the intersection, but they are looking at the configuration of the intersection to see if there is an opportunity to straighten it. They would have to realign CR 60/Briarwood to come up with a perpendicular intersection. It will not be exactly perpendicular, but they definitely want to minimize the skewed intersection. That does delay the installation of a signal, Judge Eckert mentioned he is just relieved to see there is a signal in future plans. Jose added that the challenge is timing and funding. Utilities are underway for Woodcrest, they are trying to finalize roadway construction plans to bid the project out. Completed year one for the bond letting process, and after March 27<sup>th</sup> council meeting will all be under contract. Tradewinds Blvd. has come back to the surface, those plans are complete, and they are gathering final plans in the next couple of weeks and will request to advertise the project at the March 27<sup>th</sup> council meeting as well, could be in construction as early as this summer. Plan on bidding out the drainage improvement projects they have planned on Hwy. 349 from Loop 250 up to Martin County. Cameron asked how the bids are coming in compared to the estimates? Jose answered that the previous three bids came in just under their estimates. He is hesitant to say it is going to be a pattern.

**Midland County: Commissioner Donnelly** – CR 1230 & CR 140 has been striped. Can't keep people off long enough to finish it but will open it soon. Still acquiring right-of-way and working on other projects.

**City of Odessa: Hal-** Contractors are continuing to clear the right-of-way on the University Project. Another project is 23<sup>rd</sup> St. between Kermit Hwy. and Andrews Hwy. and it is a mill and overlay, should be starting this week. Last week they opened their bids for sealcoat and those prices came in lower than they expected.

**Ector County: Judge Eckert** – Nothing else to report aside from the County's contribution to the project at 52<sup>nd</sup>/56<sup>th</sup> St. on Loop 338. Also, have acquired some right-of-way in that area that was donated.

**Martin County: Judge Cox** – Got their bids in for sealcoat, will try to do approximately 25 miles. Those bids came in lower than what they expected as well. Getting started on the new jail, about to start pouring the foundation.

**MOUSD: Absent**

## **9. Future Meetings**

Policy Board Meeting – Monday, April 16, 2018 at 5:00 pm

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – Thursday April 5, 2018 at 8:00 am

LEAP Rural Rail District Meeting – N/A

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee – Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 9:00 am

**10. 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.

**11. Take Action Concerning Executive Session Matters**

None

**14. Adjourn**

A motion was made by Judge Eckert and seconded by John Speed to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.