



Permian Basin MPO Metropolitan Planning Organization

Policy Board Meeting
9601 Wright Dr., Suite 1
Midland, TX 79706
May 21, 2018 5:00 p.m.

Minutes

Policy Board Members Present

Robin Donnelly	Chair, County Commissioner, Midland County
John B. Love III	Vice-Chair, Councilman, City of Midland
Ron Eckert	County Judge, Ector County
John Speed, P.E.	District Engineer, TxDOT Odessa District
Gennie Garcia	General Manager, MOU/D

Policy Board Members Absent:

David Turner	Mayor, City of Odessa
Bryan Cox	County Judge, Martin County

Others in Attendance:

Cameron Walker, AICP	Executive Director, Permian Basin MPO
Pamela Berry	Transportation Planner/GIS Tech, Permian Basin MPO
Rosie Spencer	Administrative Planning Assistant, Permian Basin MPO
Robert Ornelas, P.E.	Director of TP&D, TxDOT Odessa District
Gabriel Ramirez, P.E.	Advanced Planning Engineer, TxDOT Odessa District
Jessica Alexander, P.E.	Dunaway Associates, Midland County
Gary Law	Director of Project Development, MDC
Roy Allen	Transportation Committee Chairman, Odessa Chamber
Oscar Salazar	Vim Racing
Katie Briscoe	Vim Racing

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 Chair, Robin Donnelly. A quorum was present.

2. Introductions and Announcements

Cameron introduced the newest MPO staff member, Pam Berry to the Board. Cameron also introduced Oscar and Katie, members of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

3. Public Comment Period

None

4. Approve the Policy Board Minutes from April 16, 2018

Councilman Love pointed out he meant Carver St. bridge, not Culver St. in the City of Midland agency report.

A motion was made by Councilman Love and seconded by John Speed to approve the Policy Board Minutes from April 16, 2018 with the change mentioned. John Speed abstained. The motion passed with a 4-0-1 vote.

5. Approve the March 2018 Billing Statement

March is the sixth billing month for FY 2018 and the MPO spent \$30,933.99. The percentage of expenditures ended at about 42% of the annual budget and the actual balance of funds is \$277,082.96. Councilman Love asked when another work order is expected, Cameron answered he is not sure if another one will be sent since the MPO has not spent as much as previous years. Two work orders have been sent this fiscal year, last year there were three. Commissioner Donnelly asked how much the carryover was sent last year, staff answered it was about \$100,000 and carryover funds have not been sent for this fiscal year

A motion was made by Councilman Love and seconded by John Speed to approve the March 2018 Billing Statement. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Approve the FY 2019 – 2022 Transportation Improvement Program

The draft FY 2019 – 2022 TIP was out for the 30-day public comment period, Cameron went over the timeline of the document. Cameron went over the 4-year list of projects and explained the different funding sources including the Category 3 funds which is local money coming in from both Midland and Odessa Development Corporations. Commissioner Donnelly asked what is the total of Category 2 funds the MPO has received, Cameron answered about \$174 million but there has been a revision recently. About \$87 million has been allocated and there is about \$95 million remaining. Cameron brought up the project at Hwy. 191 & Loop 250 and how it used to be listed as a single project in the MTP for \$40 million. Since then, there have been 3 amendments to the

MTP and the project cost changed to about \$23 million and is now at \$10 million. TxDOT Odessa District has hired a consulting firm to help in design. In the future, it will be more difficult for MPOs to approach the Transportation Commission to amend the UTP so the time to consider adding money to this project and making it \$23 million again is now. There were 2 letters received during the comment period, one from Midland Development Corporation and the other from the City of Midland regarding the reduction in costs for this project. After multiple stakeholder meetings with TxDOT, many people believe it is going to cost more than \$10 million. Commissioner Donnelly asked Gary how much the ramp reversals in front of Sewell Ford cost, he answered \$4.2 million. Commissioner Donnelly wanted to point out the cost for ramp reversals and to show that \$10 million would not be enough to cover the entire project and solve the problem. Councilman Love added that he visited with Mark Williams at TxDOT representing the City of Midland, not the MPO, and the need for something to be done there soon because it cannot wait until 2021. He also went over the history of the amendments made to the cost and that the City of Midland also does not want to do any short-term fixes because the problem is so huge that the ultimate solution needs to occur. Mark Williams assured him TxDOT would be able to appropriate some TxDOT funds to this project. Councilman Love added that if the Board agrees to add more money to the project, he is sure TxDOT will put in the rest and Mark Williams also mentioned he would have John Speed and Robert Ornelas begin designing the fly over. Discussion began over putting more money for this project to make it \$23 million again, Robert mentioned in order to put more Category 3 money it needs to go through the UTP and then the STIP. Gary added that is why the letters mentioned getting the UTP updated in August, that way it will go in the STIP in November. Councilman Love also mentioned that this would not take any money out from other projects.

A motion was made by Councilman Love and seconded by John Speed to approve the FY 2019 – 2022 Transportation Improvement Program with the amendment to add funds to make the total \$23,260 to project RC-86a.

Judge Eckert asked if this would have to go through any public comment period, Cameron answered yes because the MTP would have to be amended as well. John Speed mentioned there is another project(RC-86b) in the year 2040 to add direct connectors, maybe they could just move that one up to attach it to this one and get it all done in 2021. The reason the project was split up in the first place was to free up Category 2 money, but with the additional funds contributed by the development corporations, it can probably move up. Robert mentioned again that it needs to go into the UTP first, then the STIP. He is in the process of submitting the project list now which is being reviewed by the transportation planning division. Any changes need to be done now. John Speed asked if it could happen, Robert answered it would have to be this week. Commissioner Donnelly mentioned he is concerned that there will not be another chance to do this until this time next year. He wants to increase the cost of the project so that is what is shown

in the UTP. Robert stated he needs to know what the Board is going to authorize because it needs UTP approval. Cameron also mentioned that he is nervous about moving a project that is near the bottom of the list up to the top. Councilman Love stated that it makes sense because when project RC-86a is let moving project RC-86b up will help since there will be people out there working and can see what needs to happen for the second project and it can be done at the same time. Judge Eckert mentioned that he does not see this on the agenda, the TIP has already been set and although he respects the letters from Midland it should have come at an earlier time because going back could affect other projects. Commissioner Donnelly asked Robert again if this would affect money for other projects, Robert answered no because right now in the proposed project list, there is an unallocated balance of \$38 million. John Speed added that the funds the Board wants to add to project RC-86a is from the unallocated balance. Commissioner Donnelly added that by not allocating the majority of the funds, Austin wonders why the funds are not being used. Judge Eckert mentioned he does not have a problem with moving the funds, he has a problem with the transparency because there are certain policies and procedures that need to be followed. The action item does not state to amend, his understanding is the TIP was recently approved. Cameron stated that was an amendment to the previous FY 2017 – 2020 TIP, this is a brand new 4-year TIP. Councilman Love added that a couple of years ago they amended the TIP to add the Yukon Rd. project, so amending the TIP is a procedural authorization the Board has authority to complete. Judge Eckert added that everyone knew then an amendment was going to be done, this notice does not state that. Discussion continued regarding the way a notice is stated, and Councilman Love added that specific projects are not ever listed, it would have stated to discuss the TIP. Judge Eckert asked if this is the first approval for this new TIP. Cameron answered yes and that it needs to be in Austin by June 18th, which is why it is on May's agenda in case there were any quorum issues in June. Gary mentioned that at the last meeting, the Board approved the draft TIP to be sent out for a 30-day public comment period, and the letters were sent in response to that. So, this is not the first time it is seen, it is just ready to be approved after the comment period has ended. Judge Eckert mentioned he understands, but it is a lot of money being moved around and not all the Board members are in attendance. Commissioner Donnelly stated that there is a quorum, a vote needs to happen since there is a motion and a second. John Speed added that when this project was first split, it was done to distribute money to other projects. Because they would have to wait for 3 or 4 years to fund the \$40 million project using Category 2 funds. Category 12 has helped and let other projects be funded, so now we are in a position where we have leftover funds. Councilman Love reiterated that there have been many changes since they looked at this project, his motion is to just put money back towards it, money the MPO has and is not being taken from anywhere else. John Speed asked about the flyovers being added and Commissioner Donnelly mentioned that if the project scope changes it would have to go back out for a 30-day comment period. Judge Eckert mentioned the public would want to know if money has changed too, Councilman Love let him know the law does not require that. Commissioner Donnelly went back to the motion and second.

Councilman Love, Gennie Garcia, and Commissioner Donnelly voted for, Judge Eckert voted against, and John Speed abstained. The motion passed with a 3-1-1 vote.

7. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Permian Basin MPO, TxDOT, and MOU

It is a FAST Act requirement that there be a Memorandum of Understanding between the MPO, TxDOT and anyone who provides public transit in the cities which is MOU (EZ-Rider). Staff drafted a document that Gennie and TxDOT have seen and was sent out with the packet and other materials. Cameron reviewed the agreement and went over certain parts with the Board. There is an agreement between the MPO and MOU and another between MPO and TxDOT, but there is no tri-party agreement. Councilman Love asked if this one supersedes those, Cameron answered yes.

A motion was made by Councilman Love and seconded by Gennie Garcia to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Permian Basin MPO, TxDOT, and MOU. The motion passed unanimously.

8. UTP Discussion

Robert went over the 2019 Unified Transportation Plan (UTP) and covered the timeline, targets, and the project list.

9. MPO Staff Reports

a. 120-Day Calendar: Cameron pointed out that May is Bike Month. The Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee met on May 9th and reviewed the submittals from 4 different firms. They did decide on who they wanted, but he is not sure if a contract will happen yet, so he does not want to say who was chosen. Commissioner Donnelly asked if they already scoped out the project, Cameron answered no. Commissioner Donnelly then asked if they would look at some off-system right-of-way areas. Cameron stated that they will look at a lot of areas in between the cities as possible connectivity corridors. John Speed also asked if the committee gave any preferred, routes, or preferred starting or ending points. Cameron answered that both communities already have bike trails, they would just like to connect the eastern end of Odessa to the western end of Midland's trail. Commissioner Donnelly added he would like it to be off a highway and Cameron did state none of it would be on existing pavement, it would be its own corridor and would not compete with motorized traffic. June Policy Board meeting will be held at Odessa College with a 3:00 p.m. start time. Councilman Love mentioned he will not be at July's Policy Board meeting.

b. FAST Act Compliance Update: The MPO has been working on FAST Act compliance and one was the MOU that was just approved. Staff is currently working with Gennie and her staff on the Transit Asset Management Plan, Gennie added that they are not sure if the due date is October, but they are still trying to do it as soon as possible. The FAST Act requires the Board to concur with the plan.

c. 30-Day Activity and Social Media Update: Councilman Love asked about an update on the thoroughfare plan, Cameron answered that there is no update at this time. Cameron plans on meeting with Judge Cox soon to get Martin County's thoroughfares. He wants to get with him and go over what he wants to include in the regional plan. The MPO had 5 workshops for the 2045 MTP; 2 in Odessa, 2 in Midland and 1 at EZ-Rider. Staff will give an update next month over the results, but attendance was lower than he wanted and lower than the workshops held in 2013. He did notice a lot of interest in bike/ped expenditure and improvements. Staff attended the Click It or Ticket event, met with TxDOT to talk about the UTP, and Cameron attended the TEMPO meeting regarding Category 2 funding. He will update the Board when he knows more about that. The MPO has 99 Facebook likes 80 followers on Twitter.

10. Agency Project Reports

TxDOT Odessa District: Robert – Pointed out a typo on the second from the bottom project listed on the first page of the project status sheet, the estimate is not \$218 million it is probably about \$21.8 million. There are two projects that are not on this list but will be on the next one, 52nd/56th St. & Loop 338 and Loop 250 & Hwy. 191 improvements to the southbound frontage road. Both have an October 2018 letting. Cameron asked what the improvement is on the Loop 250 project, Robert answered it is to widen the inside lane and shift the lanes over. The right lane will become a dedicated right turn lane.

City of Midland: Councilman Love – City is progressing on Carver St. bridge and they are doing sealcoating. **Mike Pacelli** – A lane is closed on Andrews Hwy. westbound near Midland Dr. & Loop 250. It is for water line installation and is associated with the new street Sinclair being put in going north off Andrews Hwy. into a neighborhood to help alleviate congestion. Commissioner Donnelly asked if there is a water line being put in south of Loop 250 and south of Andrews Hwy., Mike answered that is Fasken's pipeline corridor. John Speed added that it is going parallel to the right-of-way, so all product will be carried to the midcities area.

Midland County: Commissioner Donnelly – Buying and attempting to buy right-of-way.

City of Odessa: Hal – For the University project, the city's contractor Onyx is progressing on street clearing. Going from Andrews Hwy. east you will see a wider corridor. Atmos is constructing a new gas line from Maple to Dawn. Oncor is at Maple getting rid of the H-frames that are adjacent to University and going up with monopoles. The transmission is staying overhead, and the distribution is going under. Wrapping up the final roadway plans to go out in July for roadway construction. Contractor is done with concrete work on 23rd St. from Kermit Hwy. to Andrews Hwy. and will hopefully start on asphalt work soon. Sealcoat project will start in June, went out to bid for 2 new signals. One is at Dawn and Yukon and the other is Faudree Rd. and Dorado.

Ector County: Judge Eckert – Nothing to add.

Martin County: Absent

MOULD: Gennie – Progress on maintenance facility project, hoping to pour concrete in the coming weeks. Coordinated Call for funding with FTA and TxDOT, they requested a grant to expand the inter city bus hours to match the fixed route hours. One of the reason is because of more requests to go into both cities from people coming in from Greyhound. They have seen ridership increase 76% from FY 2015 to FY 2017 with an increase of 32% each year. With All Aboard American and Greyhound bringing in more people, it is increasing more with the oilfield workers coming in. Cameron asked how many more hours they are looking at, she answered they are currently at 6.5 hours per day and they are requesting 12 hours a day and 6.5 hours on weekends. John Speed asked how she is doing with drivers, Gennie answered it is a struggle and they are losing a few drivers with wages they cannot compete with. They did change the wage from \$13.50 to \$15.00 and are getting more applications, but some are not passing background or drug tests. Councilman Love mentioned he has spoken with an organization that will be bringing a tiny house community and they want to be sure EZ-Rider will be available to serve them. Gennie did say she is aware and has been working with another organization to bridge that gap.

10. Future Meetings

Policy Board Meeting – Monday, June 18, 2018 at 3:00 pm (Saulsbury Center at Odessa College)

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 8:00 am

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee – Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at 9:00 am

LEAP Rural Rail District Meeting – N/A

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.

12. Take Action Concerning Executive Session Matters

None

13. Adjourn

A motion was made by Councilman Love and seconded by John Speed to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.