

WICHITA FALLS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Technical Advisory Committee
Minutes

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Voting Members Present:

Lin Barnett – Wichita Falls MPO, MPO Director, TAC Chairperson
Danny Brown – TxDOT, Director of Trans. Planning and Development
James Kelley – TxDOT, Area Engineer
Joe Anderson – TxDOT, Director of Construction
Mark Beauchamp – City of Wichita Falls, Traffic Superintendent
Karen Montgomery-Gagné – City of Wichita Falls, Comm. Development Planner III
Tim Hertel – TxDOT, Director of Operations
Davis L. Powell – City of Wichita Falls, City Engineer

MPO Staff:

Donnie Arbeau – Wichita Falls MPO, Transportation Planner II
John Burrus – City of Wichita Falls, Director of Aviation, Traffic, & Transportation
Carolyn Askins – TxDOT, Transportation Planning Assistant

Highway Needs Committee Members:

Visitors:

Nora Hodges – NORTEX Regional Planning Commission, Transportation Planner
Charles Elmore – City of Wichita Falls, City Council Representative
Molli Choate – TxDOT, ITS Coordinator
David Rohmer – TxDOT, District Traffic Engineer

Absent:

Dave Clark – City of Wichita Falls, Dir. of Community Development

I. Welcome & Introduction

Mr. Barnett called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone present. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

II. Review and Approval of the October 4th Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) Meeting Minutes

Mr. Barnett asked for comments on the October 4th TAC minutes. None were received. Mr. Beauchamp motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Montgomery-Gagné seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Review and Comment Regarding the Transportation Policy Committee's (TPC's)

October 18th Meeting Minutes - No Action Required

Mr. Barnett asked for comments on the October 18th TPC minutes. None were received. The board moved on to the next item of business.

IV. Review and Recommendation on FY 2007 UPWP Amendment, Subtask 5.6 – Budget Revision to Incorporate Funding for the Traffic Signal Optimization Program

Mr. Barnett notified members that the proposal was brought before the TAC for any changes before being presented to the TPC for final approval. Mr. Powell commented on the positive results from the previous study and asked about the costs and manpower needed to carry out the project moving forward. Mr. Beauchamp answered by stating that these would be absorbed into the regular duties of Traffic Division staff.

Mr. Barnett asked for a motion to send the recommendation to the Transportation Policy Committee for their review and approval at the January 24, 2006 TPC Meeting. Mr. Kelly made the motion to approve. Mr. Hertel seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

V. Review and Recommendation on FY 2007 UPWP Amendment, Subtask 5.7 – Budget Revision to Allocate Funding for Payment of Wilbur Smith & Associates Contract Retainage on 2004 Socioeconomic Data Study and Forecast Update

Mr. Barnett supplied a brief overview of the payment issue with Wilbur Smith & Associates. He explained that the key issue was poor accounting by the consultant. Ms. Montgomery-Gagné expressed her displeasure with the amount of time that had passed since project completion. While expressing his understanding of the issue, Mr. Barnett also stated that his research revealed the MPO was legally obligated to pay the outstanding retainage fee.

Mr. Barnett asked for a motion to send the recommendation to the Transportation Policy Committee for their review and approval at the January 24, 2006 TPC Meeting. Mr. Kelly made the motion to approve. Mr. Brown seconded the motion, which passed with 1 abstention. Mr. Barnett asked for additional comments. None were received.

VI. Review and Recommendation on FY 2007 UPWP Amendment, Subtask 5.8 – Budget Revision to Carryover Funding into FY 2007 for the Aerial Photography Project Begun in FY 2006

Mr. Barnett informed the TAC committee that the MPO had a balance of \$7,067.12 still remaining of their \$20,000 obligated to the project.

Mr. Barnett asked for a motion to send the recommendation to the Transportation Policy Committee for their review and approval at the January 24, 2006 TPC Meeting. Mr. Hertel made the motion to approve. Mr. Brown seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Barnett asked for additional comments. Councilor Elmore asked about the status of the project. Mr. Powell indicated that the project should be completed within a couple of months. He continued by commenting on the ongoing issue of access and how to make the aerial data available to various agencies and the public.

VII. Review and Recommendation on the October 2006 MPO Roadway Projects

Environmental Justice Analysis Report

Mr. Barnett commented on the project list in the report and made note of the new projects added to the report list. The TAC committee briefly discussed options and agreed that focus group analysis of the project list, similar to the previous year, was beneficial before sending to TPC. Mr. Barnett, Mr. Burrus, and Mr. Hertel volunteered to participate in the process again and analyze the new projects added.

Mr. Barnett asked for additional comments. None were received. Pending changes from the focus group analysis, Mr. Barnett asked for a motion to send the report to the Transportation Policy Committee for their review and approval at the January 24, 2006 TPC Meeting. Mr. Kelly made the motion to approve. Mr. Beauchamp seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VIII. Review and Recommendation on Updates to the Public Involvement Policy for FY 2007

Mr. Barnett highlighted changes reflected in the new PIP document. The new MPO website now posts all agenda items for TAC and TPC. The document also makes reference to the new EJ meeting process carried out by the MPO annually. Speaking engagement information was updated. Mr. Barnett continued by stating the document reflects changes from the year prior and new SAFETY-LU transportation legislation.

Mr. Barnett asked for additional changes or comments. None were received. Then, Mr. Barnett asked for a motion to send the revised document to the Transportation Policy Committee for their review and approval at the January 24, 2007 TPC Meeting. Mr. Anderson made the motion to approve. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

IX. Presentation by TxDOT on the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)

Ms. Choate delivered a 20 minute presentation and talked about the ITS system for Wichita Falls. The Traffic Management Center (TCM) is located at the local TxDOT district office. She discussed how the Wichita Falls Emergency Management Center for police and 911 dispatching also use the real-time video streams to help manage their incidents. The public has access to camera video (2 frames/sec.) at www.txdot.gov. Local media outlets are also interested in obtaining video feeds to improve their services. Those discussions have not yet taken place. The future Wichita Falls ITS system may add US 277, traffic areas near SAFB, and the Falls Flyover.

X. Other Business:

A. Discussion & Overview of Progress on Local Transportation Projects – City and TxDOT staff (Quarterly Review)

TxDOT Report: Mr. Kelley reported on TxDOT projects. The Falls Flyover is 80% complete at 65% of the time; FM 171 at Plum Creek is 100% complete; FM 1740 (safety bond project) is about 92% complete and should be complete by the end of Feb. 2007; IH-44 exit ramp (Arby's intersection) is 99% complete; BUS 287J / FM 367 lacks striping and driveways but should be complete this month. Mr. Kelly added that a new contract was let for correcting erosion issues on Kell Frwy. (US 82).

City Report: Mr. Powell reported on City projects. Maplewood Extension Phase I is

substantially complete (working on a punch list); Maplewood Extension Phase II is scheduled to let in July 2007 and will include Quail Creek drainage improvements; Business Park is substantially complete (working on a punch list); Jasper Water Treatment Plant substantially complete (working on a punch list); Kemp pump station reservoirs substantially complete (working on a punch list); Cypress Water Treatment Plant has a number of issues still left to be resolved. Mr. Powell commented that although the water treatment plant and pump station reservoir projects are not transportation projects, they do have a direct bearing on economic development, which is a main driving force behind transportation infrastructure projects.

B. MPO Quarterly Financial Report (4th Quarter FY 2006 – July, August, Sept.)

Mr. Barnett presented the 4th quarter report on MPO expenditures. He stated that 85.09% of the UPWP allocation for FY 2006 had been spent. He asked for comments. There were none.

C. Transit Study Progress Report

Mr. Barnett made mention of a recent memorandum from Moore & Associates outlining the progress of the study. He added that the project was nearing completion. Mr. Burris continued and added that issues brought up during the public involvement process were access to the Kell West area, Midwestern State University, high schools and junior high schools (specifically; Wichita Falls H.S. and Zundy J.H.S.). Those issues are being resolved.

D. FY 2006 Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

The report was presented by Mr. Barnett who stated that the APER report goes into greater detail than the quarterly report submitted previously. Mr. Brown made a comment questioning the UPWP funding available for future studies. The TAC agreed to continue to be progressive in its development of future studies. Mr. Barnett asked for further comments. There were none.

E. Calendar Year 2007 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Barnett presented the 2007 meeting schedule.

F. Other

Mr. Brown brought up an item concerning TxDOT Category 3 funding. Projects under this category are spread out over a 25 year period. The time has come to address mobility projects within our MPO area and to develop a long range plan for Category 3 funded projects. The feasibility of moving forward priority projects is an important part of that process. As an FYI, Mr. Brown notified the TAC and MPO staff of the upcoming issue.

As a brief follow-up concerning the establishment of the new MPO website, Mr. Arbeau presented a basic summary. The hosting package includes usage information. Since its inception the site has seen over 191,000 hits. Additional information on the site is available at www.wfmpo.com/webtrends.

Additionally, Mr. Barnett brought up the issue of TPC membership. Pleasant Valley Administrator, Mr. Jeff Watts, no longer maintains that position. As well, Lakeside City Administrator, Mr. Don Sheppard, is now retired. Therefore, the issue of TPC committee membership at these two positions needs to be addressed.

XI. Public Comment on Anything Not on the Agenda

No comments were received.

XII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Irvan F. "Lin" Barnett Jr.
MPO Transportation Planning Director
Wichita Falls MPO