

WICHITA FALLS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Transportation Policy Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

Voting Members Present:

Glenn Barham, Mayor, City of Wichita Falls
Dennis Wilde, North Texas Regional Planning Commission
Jeff Watts, City of Pleasant Valley, Representative
Jim Henson, Mayor, Lakeside City
Larry Tegtmeier, TxDOT, District Engineer
Russell Schreiber, City Public Works Director
Tim Ingle, City Council Representative
Woodrow "Woody" Gossom, Wichita County Judge

MPO Staff:

Jaimie Lee, Wichita Falls MPO, Transportation Planner II
Lin Barnett, WFMPPO, Transportation Planning Director

Visitors:

David Rohmer, TxDOT, Area Engineer
Jennifer Smith, Senator Estes
Megan Campbell, TxDOT, TPP
Mike Beaver, TxDOT, Director of TP&D

Absent:

Michael Smith, City Council Representative

I. Welcome & Introduction

Mayor Barham, the TPC chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

II. Public Comment on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

Mayor Barham asked for any public comments on agenda and non-agenda items. None was received.

III. Review and Approve the Transportation Policy Committee's October 28, 2015 TPC Meeting Minutes

Mayor Barham asked for any comments or corrections to the October 28, 2015 TPC meeting minutes. Receiving none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Watts made the motion to approve. Mr. Ingle seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

IV. Review and Comment Regarding the Technical Advisory Committee's January 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes - No Action Required

Mayor Barham asked for any comments or questions regarding the January 14, 2016 Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes. Receiving none, the committee moved on to the next agenda item.

V. Review and Approve the Amendment Adding the TAP Projects to the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Project List

Mayor Barham directed the committee's attention to the enclosed handout. Mr. Barnett stated the amended project sheet lists both Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) projects awarded to the City of Wichita Falls by the Texas Transportation Commission in late 2015. Mr. Barnett stated these grants would fund the construction of two bicycle and pedestrian trail projects within the MPO boundaries. He explained the first project is part of the Circle Trail System and covers the section of trail between the Wichita Falls Bluff Park and Loop 11. The second project is on Kemp Blvd. and involves the construction of a new sidewalk, ADA ramps, and the installation of pedestrian traffic signals.

Mr. Barnett stated the projects must become part of the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) project list before they can become part of the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mayor Barham asked for any comments or questions regarding the amendment to add the TAP projects to the 2015-2040 MTP project list. Receiving none, he asked for a motion to approve the amendment as presented. Judge Gossom made the motion. Mr. Tegtmeier seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VI. Review and Approve the Amendment Adding the TAP Projects to the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program in Section III: Federally Funded Mobility Projects

Mayor Barham directed the committee's attention to page 19 of the meeting packet. Mr. Barnett informed the committee that with the approval of the MTP amendment in Agenda Item V, the Policy Board could now approve the amendment to the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) adding both Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) projects to the TIP project list.

Mr. Barnett stated that in order for the projects to receive the TAP federal funding, WFMPO must program them into the TIP where they will become fiscally constrained. He informed the Policy Board that it required a motion and approval by the Policy Board to accept and program the TAP projects into the TIP. Mr. Barnett asked for any questions regarding the amendment. None was received. Mayor Barham asked for a motion to approve the amendment as presented. Mr. Tegtmeier made the motion. Mr. Watts seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VII. Review and Approve Amendment Adding Article VI – Ethics Policy – to the WFMPO By-Laws and Adopt the WFMPO Internal Ethics and Compliance Program

Mayor Barham directed the committee's attention to page 21 of the meeting packet. Mr. Barnett informed the committee that he worked with WFMPO's TxDOT representative, Megan Campbell to develop an Ethics Policy in conformance with Section 472.034 of the Texas Transportation Code. In regards to the WFMPO By-Laws, he stated Article VI is a new article added to the By-Laws referencing the need and application of the policy to the Transportation Planning Committee board members and their alternates. Mr. Barnett stated that Ms. Campbell and he reviewed several of the best MPO Ethics Policies from across the state when developing the WFMPO Ethics Policy.

Mr. Barnett stated the WFMPO Ethics Policy also contains an Ethical Standards Policy Affidavit for all Policy Board members to sign and return to the MPO. The MPO Director will keep the affidavits on file there in the MPO offices. Mayor Barham asked for any questions regarding the amendments to add Article VI – Ethics Policy – to the WFMPO By-Laws and to adopt the WFMPO Internal Ethics and Compliance Program. Receiving none, he asked for a motion to approve the amendment to the By-Laws, adding Article VII as presented, and to adopt the WFMPO Internal Ethics and Compliance Program for use by the Policy Board. Mayor Henson made the motion to approve. Mr. Wilde seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mayor Barham directed Mr. Barnett to forward the Ethical Standards Policy Affidavit to all the Policy Board members via email for them to complete, sign, and return to Mr. Barnett prior to the next TPC meeting. Mr. Barnett stated he would do so as soon as possible. The committee moved on to Agenda Item VIII.

VIII. Discussion of Proposition 1 Project Funding

Mr. Beaver reported on the Proposition 1 Funding stating the MPO received \$3.5 million last fiscal year and should receive approximately \$2.5 million in FY 2016. Overall, the District should receive about \$15.8 million, of which, the MPO will receive its funding allocation. He commented that the Prop 1 fund experienced a reduction in funding because of the decline in oil and gas sales. Mr. Beaver stated the diversions had ended as well, which should help the Prop 1 fund come back up to the \$3.5 to \$4.0 million threshold for the MPO.

The passage of Prop 7 should also help TxDOT with its funding efforts of transportation projects. Mr. Beaver stated the District planned to accelerate \$7.5 million dollars' worth of projects out of FY 2017 into FY 2016. However, this move will create a gap in FY 2017 that the District will need to fill. He reported that TxDOT would allocate Proposition 7 funds in 2018.

Mayor Barham asked for any further questions regarding Prop 1 funding. Receiving none, the committee moved on to the next agenda item.

IX. Other Business:

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

TxDOT: Mr. Rohmer reported the IH 44 project near SP 325/US 287 Wichita River and US 277 from Broad & Holliday to 15th street as complete. US 287 at Huntington Road bridge replacement project was ahead of schedule. SH 240 at Sinclair Road drainage ditch has yet to begin. FM 171 Old Friberg Road to Clay County Line was currently under construction and on schedule. FM 369 at Fairway near Hughes to McNiel, a section west of the FM 369 drainage ditch, had not begun construction. Also, FM 2650 from FM 369 to FM 1954 had not begun construction.

City: Mr. Schreiber reported that the McNiel Drainage and Southwest Parkway Intersection Improvements were about 90% complete. The Hike and Bike Trail from Wichita Bluff was about 40% complete. He reported the Wichita Bluff Hike and Bike Trail from Seymour Highway to the Wichita River in the Wichita Bluff Park Area was 50% complete.

b. MPO Quarterly Financial Report (4th Quarter FY 2015 –July, August, September)

Mr. Barnett reported on the fourth quarter expenses for the MPO for FY 2015. He stated the MPO spent 98.20% of its total allocation for FY 2015. He asked for any comments on the quarterly financial report. He received none.

c. Grouped TxDOT CSJ Projects Report

Mr. Barnett reported on the Grouped TxDOT CSJ Projects Report. He stated that staff added two new projects to the grouped list. Mr. Barnett asked for any comments or questions regarding the Grouped TxDOT CSJ Projects Report. None was received. The committee moved on to the next agenda item.

d. Other Items

Mr. Barnett reported WFMPO staff would begin working on its 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program in the upcoming weeks. He stated there would be a Special Called TPC meeting to approve the document sometime at the end of May or the beginning of June. Mr. Barnett also reported on the new transportation reauthorization bill known as the FAST (Fixing America's Surface Transportation) Act. He stated the FAST Act is the 5-year Congressional transportation reauthorization bill that replaces MAP-21. Mr. Barnett discussed several of the funding elements that make up the bill including the repeal of the TAP program in order to recreate it in the Surface Transportation Block Program (STBGP). He stated the City should have another future opportunity to apply for STBGP funds for the completion of portions of the Circle Trail System.

X. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Honorable Glenn Barham
Mayor Wichita Falls