

WICHITA FALLS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Transportation Policy Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, October 29, 2014

Voting Members Present:

Glenn Barham, Mayor, City of Wichita Falls
Jeff Watts, City of Pleasant Valley, Representative
Joe Gambill, Nortex, Proxy for Dennis Wilde
Larry Tegtmeyer, TxDOT
Michael Smith, City Council Representative
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

Absent:

Jim Henson, Mayor, Lakeside City

Visitors:

David Rohmer, TxDOT, Area Engineer
Jennifer Smith, Senator Craig Estes
Mark McBurnett, SAFB
Michael Beaver, TxDOT
Michael Lytle, Congressman Mac Thornberry
Tammy Marlow, TxDOT, TP&P

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. There was none.

III. Review and Approve the Transportation Policy Committee's July 23, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Barham directed the committee's attention to page 6 of the meeting packet. He asked for any comments or corrections to the July 23, 2014 TPC meeting minutes. Receiving none, Mayor Barham asked for a motion to approve

the minutes. Judge Gossom made the motion to approve. Mr. Watts seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

IV. Review and Comment Regarding the Technical Advisory Committee's October 16, 2014 Meeting Minutes – No Action Required

Mayor Barham directed the committee's attention to page 11 of the meeting packet and asked for any comments to the October 16, 2014 TAC meeting minutes. Mr. Barnett commented that the TAC spent the majority of their time analyzing and revising the 2014-2015 Prioritized Project List. There were no other comments. The committee moved on to the next agenda item.

V. Review and Approve the WFMPO 2014-2015 Prioritized Projects List

Mayor Barham directed the committee's attention to the enclosed WFMPO 2014-2015 Prioritized Project List. Mr. Barnett presented the list to the TPC committee and informed the board members of the vetting meeting held by the TAC committee on October 16. Mr. Barnett discussed the two new projects added to the list for prioritization. He briefly described how the TAC committee reviewed them during the project-vetting meeting. First, the TAC committee reexamined the Industrial Drive project (MO-29WF), nominated by Mr. Watts, to see why it scored poorly. After further review using satellite imagery, the TAC committee came to the consensus that the project should have scored much higher. Out of 60 projects, the TAC moved the project from number 58 to number 14 on the list. Mr. Barnett reminded the Policy Board that they retained the power to promote or demote any project on the list. He stated that the revisions made to the list were actually recommendations made by the TAC committee. The Policy Board agreed with the TAC recommendation and left the project in its current ranking.

The second project was actually a duplication of TxDOT's "gap" project (MO-13TX) on US 82 west of FM 369. The CSJ number changed and MPO staff assumed the project was a new one, which it was not. Mr. Barnett stated that MPO staff would contact TxDOT staff after the meeting to get clarification on the correct CSJ number. MO-13TX scored high on the list at number 5 in the overall rankings. Mr. Barnett asked for any more questions about the prioritized project list.

Councilor Smith advocated ranking the Lebanon Road project (MO-16WF) to a higher level because of the importance of creating a good north/south travel corridor in that area of the MPO. In the end, the Policy Board decided to leave the project where it was. MPO staff will make a notation of Councilor Smith's recommendation for next year's prioritization. Mr. Barnett informed the committee that he would review his budget after TxDOT performed its fiscal year closeout for 2014 to see if he would have funding available in 2015 to do a detailed corridor study between Seymour Highway and the north end of Lebanon Road. The study will also include the possibility of expanding the width of Lebanon Road. The goal, to create a functioning travel corridor that allows people in the northern part of the MPO to access the Lawrence Road shopping area.

Mr. Barnett asked for further comments or questions regarding the 2014-2015 Prioritized Projects List. Hearing none, Mayor Barham asked for a motion to approve the 2014-2015 Prioritized Project List. Councilor Smith made the motion to approve. Councilor Ingle seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VI. Progress Report on the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

Mayor Barham directed the committee's attention to page 16 of the meeting packet. Mr. Barnett informed the committee about progress on the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. He stated the plan update was on schedule and discussed sections of the plan where MPO staff had made significant progress towards completion. He stated that MPO staff would meet again with the MTP focus groups in early November to discuss the goals and performance targets developed from their input, and from the public meeting input, received back in March and April of 2014. Mr. Barnett stated that MPO staff spent the summer working on the input received from the MTP focus groups and the public meetings to create five main goals with 11 objectives, and 14 performance targets. Mr. Barnett stated the goal was to have the MTP completely finished by early December for TAC review before presenting the finished plan to the Policy Board. Mr. Barnett informed the Policy Board of the possibility of a Special Called TPC meeting in December to review and approve the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan update. He stated this would give him and his staff time to revise the plan before the final approval date of January 28, 2015.

Mayor Barham asked for any questions regarding progress on the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Receiving none, the committee moved on to the next agenda item.

VII. Progress Report on the Transit Oriented Development Study

Mayor Barham directed the committee's attention to page 21 of the meeting packet. Mr. Barnett informed the committee that the Freese and Nichols TOD staff held a meeting in August at the City Hall Council Conference room where they met with City staff and Chamber of Commerce and Industry staff to complete the local interview process. The interviews were important to Freese and Nichols because they helped shape the consultant's final recommendations for TOD implementation in Wichita Falls. Freese and Nichols will present a draft TOD report to the Technical Advisory Committee on November 13, 2014. Once the study is complete, Freese and Nichols will present their recommendations to the TPC committee.

Mr. Barnett asked for any questions regarding progress on the TOD study. Councilor Smith inquired if Freese and Nichols would include evaluations of federal money available to help redevelop the area around the Downtown Travel Center. Mr. Barnett stated he would check with Freese and Nichols about funding recommendations.

Mayor Barham asked for any other questions or comments. Receiving none, the committee moved on to the next agenda item.

VIII. Other Business:

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

City: Mr. Schreiber reported that the McNeil drainage and Southwest Parkway intersection improvements were on schedule. He reported on a mill and overlay project for the 2014 Street Rehab stating work was about 2 weeks behind schedule and the remaining streets were on fifth and 6th street.

TxDOT: Mr. Rohmer reported on US 82 from Galveston to McKinney road stating this project was essentially complete and that staff was finishing the striping work. He stated this project should wrap up in about a week. He stated FM 369 at McNeil was a project connected to the city's drainage ditch project and was currently under construction. Future projects will include: FM 369 at SH 240 to US 287 district wide seal coat, City View Drive to I-44 overlay, FM 171 Old Friberg Road to Clay County paved surface width, SH 240 bridge replacement, FM 2650 extend culverts and add shoulders, FM 369 at Fairway to McNeil drainage ditch enclosure and LP 473 Hatton Road place curb and gutter.

b. MPO Quarterly Financial Report (3rd Quarter FY 2014 – April, May, June)

Mr. Barnett reported on third quarter expenses for the MPO. He stated that the MPO had spent 60.03% of its allocation for FY 2014 through the end of the quarter. He informed the Policy Board that the MPO would spend approximately 95% of its FY 2014 budget by the end of the fourth quarter. Mayor Barham asked for any other comments or questions. Receiving none, he moved on to the next agenda item.

c. Grouped TxDOT CSJ Projects Report

Mayor Barham directed the committee's attention to the Grouped TxDOT CSJ projects report of the TPC meeting packet. Mr. Barnett reported to the committee that MPO staff added two new project placeholders for this quarter. The new projects were reliant on the passing of the Proposition I Opportunity Plan. Mayor Barham asked for any comments or revisions to the report. Receiving none, the committee moved on to the next agenda item.

d. Other Items

There were no other items for discussion.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Honorable Glenn Barham
Mayor Wichita Falls