

TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC) MEETING WICHITA FALLS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

April 23, 2014

Present:

Glenn Barham, Mayor, City of Wichita Falls	◆ Members
Davis Powell, Proxy, Russell Schreiber, City Public Works Director	◆
Dennis Wilde, North Texas Reg. Planning Commission	◆
Michael Beaver, Proxy, Larry Tegtmeyer, TxDOT, District Engineer	◆
Michael Smith, City Council Representative	◆
Tim Ingle, City Council Representative	◆
Jaimie Lee, WFMPO, Transportation Planner II	◆ Staff
Lin Barnett, WFMPO, Transportation Planning Director	◆
Monty Brown, TxDOT, Area Engineer	◆ Visitors
Tammy Marlow, TxDOT, North Region Support Center	◆
Jeff Watts, City of Pleasant Valley, Representative	◆ Absent
Jim Henson, Lakeside City, Mayor	◆
Woodrow (Woody) Gossom, Wichita County Judge	◆

I. Welcome & Introduction

Mayor Barham, the TPC chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:37 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 January 29, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Barham directed the committee's attention to page 6 of the meeting packet. Mr. Barnett asked for any comments or corrections to the January 29, 2014 TPC meeting minutes. There were none. Mayor Barham asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Wilde made the motion to approve. Councilor Ingle seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

IV. Review and Approve the Transportation Policy Committee's February 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Barham directed the committee's attention to page 12 of the meeting packet. Mr. Barnett asked for any comments or corrections to the February 20, 2014 TPC meeting

minutes. There were none. Mayor Barham asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Smith made the motion to approve. Mr. Wilde seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

V. Review and Comment Regarding the Technical Advisory Committee's April 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes – *No Action Required*

Mayor Barham directed the committee's attention to page 16 of the meeting packet and asked for any comments to the April 9, 2014 TAC meeting minutes. Receiving none, the committee moved on to the next agenda item.

VI. Review and Recommendation to Approve Amendments to the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for April 2014: Section 5339 Transit Capital Grant – Bus Replacement and Section 5307 – Bus Acquisition

Mayor Barham directed the committee's attention to page 21 of the meeting packet. Mr. Barnett stated there were two TIP amendments needing approval. He stated the first amendment was for an unexpected, but pleasant, surprise. He stated that in early March, the TxDOT Public Transportation Coordinator informed the City of Wichita Falls that it would receive a small amount of funding from the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5339 Capital Improvement Grant Program. He stated this was the first time the City had received this type of funding from the FTA. Mr. Barnett stated that he met with the Director of Aviation, Traffic, and Transportation and the Transit Administrator to discuss how they wanted to use the funds. After reviewing the current state of the Falls Ride fleet, everyone agreed that the best use of the windfall was to purchase one 35-foot, low-floor, 500,000-mile replacement bus. The entire amount of \$399,293 will go towards the acquisition because buses of this type and size cost approximately \$400,000. Mr. Barnett asked for any questions regarding the first amendment to the TIP. There were none.

Mr. Barnett then discussed the second TIP amendment, which applied to the FY 2013 Section 5307 Capital, Operating, and Planning transit, grant. He stated this amendment added a capital requisition for two 33-foot, Ford 550, Entourage cutaway buses to the existing FTA transit grant that was currently under development. He stated Falls Ride needed these two buses to fill a service gap in the overall system. Mr. Barnett asked for any questions regarding the second amendment to the TIP. He then directed the committee's attention to the transit summary on page 31 of the TPC meeting packet. Mr. Barnett informed the committee of the changes to the transit financial summary involving the new federal and state funding amounts for FY 2014. Mr. Barnett asked for any comments or questions regarding changes to the transit financial summary. There were none. Mayor Barham asked for a motion to approve the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program, transit amendments. Councilor Ingle made the motion to approve the amendments. Mr. Wilde seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

Mayor Barham directed the committee's attention to page 35 of the meeting packet. Mr. Barnett informed the committee about progress on the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. He stated that MPO staff completed seven focus group meetings in March directed at specific cross-sections of the community in order to gain specialized information. Mr. Barnett informed the Policy Board that staff would hold two public

meeting workshops, or charrettes, in May so that the public would have an opportunity to make suggestions and comments on the future of transportation for the region.

Mr. Barnett stated that MPO staff would take all of the gathered information and develop the draft MTP document over the summer months. The draft will contain the transportation network vision, goals, objectives, and performance measures required under MAP-21 legislation. He stated the plan update was on schedule and that his goal was to have the MTP ready for Policy Board review by October or November of 2014. Mr. Barnett asked for any questions regarding progress on the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. 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)

TxDOT Report: Mr. Brown reported that construction of the US 82/287 Windthorst Road Bridge was complete. Projects on IH44 and US 82 near Maurine Street, Windthorst Road, and McNeil Avenue received Dynamic Message Signs and were complete. He reported the left turn lane and signal upgrade on State Highway 79 south of Professional Drive was complete. Lastly, he reported on US 82 from Galveston to McKinney road and stated this project will finish this summer. Future projects include IH 44 from Maurine Street to SP 325, SP 325 from FM 890 to IH 44, and FM 369 from FM 369 at McNeil. The state had let these projects but construction had not yet started.

City Report: Mr. Powell reported the Moffett Sewer Rehab from Moffett, McNeil to Stearns was 50 percent complete. He stated the 2013 Lift Station #45 Replacement from Maplewood and E. Montgomery was 40 percent complete. Mr. Powell reported that the City had awarded the 2014 Street Rehab Project for various locations around the city but construction had not yet begun. Scheduled projects included the McNeil drainage project from McNeil at Southwest Parkway to Phillips. They will go out for bid by end of April 2014.

B. MPO Quarterly Financial Report (1st Quarter FY 2014 – October, November, December)

Mr. Barnett reported on the first quarter expenses for the MPO. He stated that the MPO had spent 21.22% of its allocation for FY 2014. He asked for any questions about the first quarter financial report. There were none.

C. Grouped TxDOT CSJ Projects Report

Mr. Barnett directed the committee's attention to page 44 of the TPC meeting packet. Ms. Lee reported to the committee that MPO staff added one new project to the Grouped TxDOT CSJ Project report for this quarter and but did not remove any projects. Mr. Barnett asked if there were any questions about the Grouped TxDOT CSJ project report. Receiving none, he moved on to the next agenda item.

D. MPO Director Report: 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program Development

Mr. Barnett directed the committee's attention to page 45 of the TPC meeting packet. He stated TxDOT sent all the MPO's a timeline for completion of the 2015-2018 statewide STIP and that WFMPO needs their draft Transportation Improvement Program submitted to the Wichita Falls District Office by May 1. Mr. Barnett stated that the basic structure of the TIP would remain unchanged but would incorporate the new project templates required by the TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming Division and would include performance measures based on MAP-21 regulations. Mr. Barnett asked for comments regarding progress on the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Plan. There were none. The committee moved on to the next agenda item.

E. MPO Director Report: Transit Oriented Development Study

Mr. Barnett informed the committee that MPO staff, at the request of the consultant Freese and Nichols, Inc. had set up five stakeholder meetings on April 8 with the major transit "activity generators", which included Kell West Hospital, United Regional Health Care Center, Midwestern State University, Sheppard Air Force Base, and Wichita Falls Downtown Development. Only two stakeholders showed up for the meetings. Ms. Wendy Shabay, Project Lead, felt that due to the lack of attendance and information received from the stakeholder meetings, she had nothing new to present to the TAC committee on April 9. Therefore, Ms. Shabay and Mr. Barnett decided to regroup and try to get all the stakeholders to come to one workshop style meeting at a future date in late May or early June.

Ms. Shabay informed Mr. Barnett of her concerns in trying to identify key areas within the city for TOD infrastructure investment. Mr. Barnett informed the Policy Board that he reminded Ms. Shabay that part of the scope of the study was to determine the viability of instituting TOD measures within Wichita Falls. He stated that even though Ms. Shabay had concerns about locating TOD areas within Wichita Falls, he felt the research behind the TOD study was successful in showing Wichita Falls was not quite ready yet to implement TOD. He stated that it is better to spend funding on a study to show an area is not ready for TOD, than to spend a greater amount of funding to implement TOD and watch it fail.

Mr. Barnett informed the committee that his staff would work with Ms. Shabay to set up the workshop and insure its success so that Freese and Nichols, Inc. could deliver a quality product, in the form of the study with recommendations, later that year.

Mr. Barnett asked for any other concerns or questions regarding the Transit Oriented Development Study. None were received. The committee moved on to the next agenda item

F. Other Items

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Honorable Glenn Barham
Mayor Wichita Falls