

WICHITA FALLS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Voting Members Present:

Lin Barnett, Wichita Falls MPO, MPO Director, TAC Chairperson
Davis Powell, City of Wichita Falls, City Engineer
Mark Beauchamp, City of Wichita Falls, Traffic Superintendent
Mike Beaver, TxDOT, Director of TP&D
David Rohmer, TxDOT, Area Engineer
TJ Herrell, proxy for Tim Hertel, TxDOT, Director of Operations

MPO Staff:

Jaimie Lee, Wichita Falls MPO, Transportation Planner II

Absent:

Allan Moore, TxDOT, Director of Construction
Jim Dockery, City of Wichita Falls, Deputy City Manager
Karen Montgomery-Gagne, City of Wichita Falls, Planning Administrator

I. Welcome & Introduction

Mr. Barnett, the TAC chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

II. Public Comment on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Barnett asked for any public comments on agenda and non-agenda items. Receiving none, he moved on to the next agenda item.

III. Review and Approval of the January 14, 2016 Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) Meeting Minutes

Mr. Barnett asked for any comments or corrections to the January 14, 2016 TAC meeting minutes. MPO staff received none. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Beauchamp made the motion to approve. Mr. Rohmer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

IV. Review and Comment Regarding the January 27, 2016 Transportation Policy Committee's (TPC's) Meeting Minutes - No Action Required

Mr. Barnett asked for comments on the January 27, 2016 TPC meeting minutes. MPO staff received none. The committee moved on to the next agenda item.

V. Review and Recommendation to the Policy Board to Approve the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Barnett directed the committee's attention to page 15 of the meeting packet. He stated that MPO staff had been working on the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update since late February. MPO staff conducted two public hearings in March 2016. The first public hearing was on March 22, 2016 in the Wichita Falls Public Library at 6:00 p.m. The second public hearing was on March 29, 2016 in the Downtown Travel Center at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Barnett stated the TIP is the fiscally constrained document for our area that programs surface transportation projects with state and federal dollars. He stated that MPO staff updated the TIP to reflect new requirements found in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015, also known as the FAST Act. The FAST Act replaces MAP-21 as the transportation reauthorization bill for all U.S. DOT agencies. The FAST Act funds all surface transportation projects for the next five years. President Obama signed the bill into law on December 4, 2015.

Mr. Barnett stated the basic structure of the TIP remained unchanged but incorporated progress on projects from years 2014 and 2015 in Table 1, "Progress from Previous Years." He commented that the new TIP incorporated the new MPO Boundary Map approved by the Texas Transportation Commission in 2014. Mr. Barnett stated that all of the performance measures from section "L. Performance Measures" carried over from the 2015-2018 TIP into the new TIP. He also commented that the two Transportation Alternative Program projects, or TAP projects, carried over from the old TIP into the new TIP. The two TAP projects are the Wichita Bluff Park to Loop 11 Hike and Bike trail and the Kemp Street sidewalk pedestrian improvement project. Mr. Barnett discussed the separate Excel spreadsheet used by the Wichita Falls TxDOT district office and the MPO to upload projects into the eSTIP electronic project tracking system administered by the TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming Division in Austin. He gave a brief overview on the Section III Federally Funded Mobility Project Summary Table and the Section VI Federally Funded Transit Project Summary Table. Finally, Mr. Barnett discussed the MPO Self-Certification for Attainment Areas in Section VII of the document. WFMPO continues to function as an air attainment region. Meaning, the Wichita Falls MPO meets the standards for clean air in our region.

Mr. Barnett asked for comments regarding the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Plan. The TAC board recommended adding the wording "Study to widen to a 4-lane divided facility" on the FM 890, IH-44 to SH 240, project located in Table 1 – Progress from Previous Years. The TAC committee also recommended adding the two TAP projects, Wichita Bluff Park to Loop 11 and Kemp Street Pedestrian Improvements, to the table.

After addressing all of the comments, Mr. Barnett asked for a motion to forward the Transportation Improvement Plan, with revisions, to the Policy Board for review and approval. Mr. Beauchamp made the motion to approve. Mr. Beaver seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VI. Review and Discussion of the Updated WFMPO Public Participation Plan

Mr. Barnett directed the committee's attention to page 50 of the meeting packet. He stated that the MPO created the Public Participation Plan in 2007 as a replacement to the Public Involvement Policy, as directed by TxDOT and the Federal Highway Administration at that time. Since then, the document has received only minor administrative updates to changes in personnel and in advances with Social Media such as Facebook, Twitter, and the new website. Mr. Barnett stated that he revised the Public Participation Plan to reflect new requirements found in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015, also known as the FAST Act. He commented that he did not change any of the procedures specified within the document for public involvement because they continue to serve the MPO well. He stated that MPO staff uses the Public Participation Plan as the guide for all public involvement processes within the MPO area. Mr. Barnett informed the committee that after he presented the revised Public Participation Plan to the Policy Board at the April 27, 2016 Transportation Policy Committee meeting for their review and comment then MPO staff would post the document for a 45-day public comment period. After the 45-day public comment period expires, Mr. Barnett will present the document again to the TAC committee at the July 2016 TAC meeting. Pending their review and comment, he will present the final draft to the Policy Board for their review and approval at the July 2016 Transportation Planning Committee meeting.

Mr. Barnett asked for any further questions or comments regarding the revisions to the Public Participation Plan document. There were none. The committee moved on to the next agenda item.

VII. Discussion of Proposition 1, Proposition 7, and Traditional Project Funding

Mr. Beaver reported on the 10-year Unified Transportation Plan (UTP) Funding Projections stating Proposition 1 Funding reached a significant peak in 2015. In that year, the District received \$5,260,000 in Category 1 funds. That amount will decrease in 2017 but remain steady at approximately \$2,780,000 per year through 2026. He commented that the District should start to see Category 2 funds again sometime in 2018 at approximately \$1.68 million. Category 2 funds are MPO funds. Mr. Beaver reported that TxDOT would also allocate Proposition 7 funds in 2018. Mr. Beaver stated that his spreadsheet did not include any Category 6 Bridge funds because the Transportation Planning and Programming in Austin programs those.

Mr. Beaver reminded everyone that these are draft projections for Categories 1, 2, 4, and 11. They are subject to change at any time. Category 1 funds are for rehabilitation and preventative maintenance projects; pavement repair, roadway widening, overlays, seal coats, etc. Category 2 funds are for work within the MPO on roadways that are on the state highway system. Category 4 funds are for statewide connectivity corridor projects; widening pavement, super-2 and 2-lane to 4-lane corridor improvements. Category 11 funds are for district discretionary work. However, the District often uses them to fund rehabilitation and preventative maintenance work.

Mr. Barnett asked for any further questions or comments regarding any of the funding mechanisms. 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. Powell reported that the 2016 Asphalt Street Rehab project was underway and is 2% complete. He reported the Wichita Bluff Hike and Bike Trail Phase 1 is 50% complete. Future projects include 2016 Concrete Street Rehab Project, Hike and Bike Trail Phase 2, and Kemp Street Pedestrian Improvements.

TxDOT: Mr. Rohmer reported the US 287 at Huntington Road bridge replacement project was complete. SH 240 at Sinclair Road drainage ditch is waiting on AT&T to clear a utility line and a city water line relocated and construction will begin in a few weeks. FM 171 Old Friberg Road to Clay County Line is nearing completion and should be complete in a week or two. FM 369 at Fairway near Hughes to McNiel, a section west of the FM 369 drainage ditch, is on schedule. FM 2650 from FM 369 to FM 1954 had not begun construction. Mr. Rohmer stated BU287 J, US 281 and FM 171 are various overlay projects. US 82 near McKinney Road and SH 79 from US 82 are both illumination upgrades.

b. **MPO Quarterly Financial Report (1st Quarter FY 2016 – October, November, December)**

Mr. Barnett reported on the 1st quarter expenses for the MPO. He stated that the MPO had spent 19.17% of its total allocation for FY 2016. He asked for any comments or questions on the fourth quarter financial report. He received none.

c. **Grouped TxDOT CSJ Projects Report**

Mr. Barnett directed the committee's attention to the Grouped TxDOT CSJ projects report of the TAC meeting packet. He stated that MPO staff had several new projects to report for this quarter. Mr. Barnett asked for any comments or revisions to the report. Receiving none, he moved on to the next agenda item.

d. **Other Items**

Mr. Barnett informed the committee that TxDOT would hold its bi-annual Transportation Planning Conference in Houston on June 15-17. MPO staff will attend this event.

IX. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

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