

WICHITA FALLS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes

Thursday, July 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
Tim Hertel, TxDOT, Director of Operations
Karen Montgomery-Gagne, City of Wichita Falls, Planning Administrator

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

Visitors:

William Carter, City of Wichita Falls Health Department
John Burrus, City of Wichita Falls, Director of AT&T

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 April 14, 2016 Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) Meeting Minutes

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

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

Mr. Barnett asked for comments on the April 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 Amendments to the 2016-2017 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Barnett directed the committee's attention to page 15 of the meeting packet. He stated WFMPO received its third work order designating PL-112 apportionment for FY 2016. Mr. Barnett explained the total amount authorized for programming is \$205,843. He stated adjustments have been made in FY 2016 to increase the amount programmed in Subtask 5.5 in order to hire a qualified consulting firm to help WFMPO update its regional demographics study. Mr. Barnett stated the data from this study will act as inputs in the next Travel Demand Model (TDM) update. He explained the TDM needs updating to year 2045 so that MPO staff can develop the 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which is due January 28, 2020. Mr. Barnett stated the demographic study will carry over into FY 2017 and those revisions reflect the UPWP as well.

Mr. Barnett asked for any comments or questions regarding the amendments to the 2016-2017 Unified Planning Work Program. Receiving none, he asked for a motion to forward the document to the policy board. Mr. Beauchamp made the motion to approve. Mr. Beaver seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VI. Review and Recommendation to the Policy Board to Approve the Updated WFMPO Public Participation Plan

Mr. Barnett directed the committee's attention to page 48 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. 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 the document was posted for a 45-day public comment period. WFMPO did not receive any comments during that period. He asked for any comments or questions regarding the Public Participation Plan document. Receiving none, he asked for a motion to approve the WFMPO Public Participation Plan. Mr. Powell made the motion to approve the plan. Mr. Ingle seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Beaver informed the committee that the Southwest Parkway intersection improvement projects let during the month (July 2016). TxDOT estimated total cost for these projects at \$1.9 million. However, they actually came in at \$2.4 million or \$500,000 more than expected. Even though the cost came in over the estimated amount, the District decided to proceed with the projects. Mr. Beaver commented that this was the first phase of projects that resulted from a study initiated by the MPO. This phase will upgrade all of the traffic signals and install illuminated street signs. The upgrades will include increasing the capacity of the left turn lanes and other new equipment. Nothing in Phase 1 requires additional Right-of-Way (ROW). However, TxDOT plans to add some right turn lanes during Phase 2, which will require additional ROW. He stated that the District has

asked their consultant to look at the possibility of widening the bridge over Holiday Creek.

Mr. Beaver stated that funding for the region continues to shift but that the MPO would begin to see new funding trickle in over the next few months and years. He stated that some of the rural areas were concerned with the majority of Prop 7 funds apparently going to the heavily urbanized areas. Mr. Beaver commented that the state legislature continues to make adjustments. He stated that along with the \$5 million for the District in 2017, the MPO might see some additional funding as well. Specifically, WFMPO would see \$1.2 million in 2017 and \$4.1 million in 2018. Then, in 2019, WFMPO would receive \$4.3 million and then in 2020 the MPO would receive \$5.5 million. He reminded everyone that all of these numbers are subject to change by the Legislature and the Texas Transportation Commission.

Mr. Powell asked if there would be any changes in how TxDOT uses the funds for projects. Mr. Beaver stated that the funds coming into the MPO would go towards on-system TxDOT projects. However, there has been talk about changing the rules and using the funds for other things such as enhancement projects and other off-system projects.

Mr. Beaver commented that the Prioritized Project List that WFMPO produces every year would become even more critical for programming projects once the new funds become available. He commented that the MPO would need to justify project selections to the state and the Texas Transportation Commission. Mr. Barnett commented that the process would begin again in late July and early August.

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 was 35% complete. He reported the Wichita Bluff Hike and Bike Trail Phase 1 was 50% complete. He reported the 2016 Concrete Street Rehab project was 30% complete. Future projects include the 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 was under construction. FM 369 at Fairway near Hughes to McNeil, a section west of the FM 369 drainage ditch, was on schedule. FM 2650 from FM 369 to FM 1954 was in the beginning phases of construction. 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 and have been let. FM 890 to US 287 and FM 367 to BU 277A are seal coat projects.

b. MPO Quarterly Financial Report (2nd Quarter FY 2016 – January, February, March)

Mr. Barnett reported on the 2nd quarter expenses for the MPO. He stated that the MPO had spent 40.15% of its total allocation for FY 2016. He asked for any comments or questions on the second quarter financial report. He received none.

c. Grouped TxDOT CSJ Projects Report

Mr. Barnett stated there were no grouped TxDOT CSJ projects to report.

d. **Other Items**

Mr. Barnett informed the committee that WFMPO staff would begin preparing for the Prioritized Project List update by August 2016.

IX. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

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

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