

WICHITA FALLS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Voting Members Present:

Lin Barnett, Wichita Falls MPO, MPO Director, TAC Chairperson
David Rohmer, TxDOT, Area Engineer
Davis Powell, City of Wichita Falls, City Engineer
Glenn Allbritton, TxDOT, Director of Operations
Larry Wilkinson, City of Wichita Falls, Traffic Superintendent
Mike Beaver, TxDOT, Director of TP&D

MPO Staff:

Jaimie Lee, Wichita Falls MPO, Transportation Planner II

Visitors:

Barbara Maley, FHWA
John Burrus, City of Wichita Falls, Director of AT&T
John Overman, Texas Transportation Institute
Justin Morgan, FHWA
Nicholous Walker, Community/Land Development

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 9:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Introductions went around the room.

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 6, 2017 Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) Meeting Minutes

Mr. Barnett asked for any comments or corrections to the April 6, 2017 TAC meeting minutes. Receiving none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Allbritton made the motion to approve. Mr. Wilkinson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

IV. Review and Comment Regarding the April 17, 2017 Transportation Policy Committee's (TPC's) Meeting Minutes – No Action Required

Mr. Barnett asked for comments on the April 17, 2017 TPC meeting minutes. MPO staff received none. The committee moved on to the next agenda item.

V. Review and Comment Regarding the June 29, 2017 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee's (BPAC) Meeting Minutes – No Action Required

Mr. Barnett discussed the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee's (BPAC) meeting minutes. Mr. Barnett stated that he discussed in detail with BPAC the three trail projects submitted on May 19, 2017 for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program. He presented several maps to the TAC committee containing updates to the 2015-2040 Bicycle Master Plan. He discussed the updates to the Class A, B, & C Routes and presented the updated Circle Trail System map that included proposed trails and concept trails. Mr. Barnett stated that he would post the revised maps on WFMPO's website after the July 26, 2017 Transportation Policy Committee meeting. These maps will include the 2015 – 2040 Bicycle Master Plan map (includes all trails within the MPO area), the Circle Trail System, Proposed Trails, Concept Trails map, the Class A, B, & C Routes map, and the Safe Routes to School Area map.

Mr. Barnett discussed the need to find alternate funding streams for corridors and trails. He stated that he wanted to form a BPAC subcommittee explore other means of funding. He commented that WFMPO would continue to look for state and federal sources of hike and bike trail funding. He presented the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) area map and discussed future qualifying areas. Mr. Barnett stated SRTS programs aim to make it safer for children to walk and bike to school. The three present locations include the Southern Hills Elementary Area, the City View Elementary Area, and the John Tower Elementary Area. Future qualifying area recommendations included Washington Jackson along Harding Street on eastside and the expansion of the SRTS program at John Tower Elementary.

Mr. Barnett discussed the Bicycle Friendly Community Designation. He stated the City of Wichita Falls tried to obtain a bronze designation from the League of American Bicyclists in 2016, but the City could not meet some of the criteria. Mr. Barnett stated he would look at the recommended building blocks set out by the League of American Bicyclists and work on finding ways to secure the bronze designation. Mr. Barnett asked for any comments or questions regarding the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting minutes. Receiving none, the committee moved on to the next agenda item.

VI. Review and Discussion on Progress of the Socioeconomic and Demographic Data Forecast Update for 2017

Mr. Barnett presented TAC with a progress report regarding work accomplished thus far on the S&DD Forecast Update. He stated that since the kickoff meeting in March, WFMPO has gathered data and attended on-line teleconferences. Mr. Barnett presented a list of pertinent information as takeaways from the consultant. He commented that there was very little growth in Wichita Falls over the five-year period between 2010 and 2015. He stated that Sheppard Air Force Base (SAFB), the James V. Allred Prison Unit, and southwest Wichita Falls saw the largest population growth. He stated city housing permits indicate the bulk of housing growth took place south of Southwest Parkway. Mr. Barnett stated the changes in Base Year Demographics from 2010-2015 had very minor

changes. The MPO Boundary was extended south in 2014 and new Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ's) were added due to the boundary extension. Other changes included the coding of existing roads to the correct functional classification, area classification corrections ranging from Central Business District through Rural, and minor changes to facility types. Mr. Barnett asked for any comments or questions regarding the progress of the Socioeconomic and Demographic Data Forecast Update. Receiving none, the committee moved on to the next agenda item.

VII. Other Business:

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

City: Mr. Powell reported the Wichita Bluff Hike & Bike Trail Phase 1 was 90% complete. Falls Bridge & Trail Improvements was 75% complete. 2016 Drainage Project was 40% complete. 2017 Asphalt Street Rehab at various locations across the city was 80% complete. 2017 Concrete Street Rehab at various locations across the city was 40% complete. He reported scheduled projects include the Hike and Bike Trail Phase 2, Kemp Street Pedestrian Improvements, and future projects awaiting funding include two projects that were submitted for grant funding for the TA-Set Aside program, the Hike and Bike trail from Loop 11 to Lucy Park and the Hike and Bike trail along BNSF railroad from Seymour Hwy. to Barnett Road. And the Maplewood extension from Lawrence Road to McNeil.

TxDOT: Mr. Rohmer reported that FM 369 intersection improvements were underway and almost complete. US 287 at Wellington Lane Bridge is anticipated to open to traffic next week. Loop 11 at Wichita River bridge rail replacement is making decent progress but waiting on additional materials. Maplewood Ave SB/NB at McGrath Creek bridge replacement has been let and awaiting preconstruction meeting.

b. MPO Quarterly Financial Report (2nd Quarter FY 2017 – January, February, March)

Ms. Lee reported on the 2nd quarter expenses for the MPO. She stated that the MPO had spent approximately 44.83% of its total allocation for FY 2017. Mr. Barnett commented that the total programmed amount did not include the \$40,000 of State Planning and Research (SPR) funds. WFMPO applied for these additional funds to aid in the hiring of a qualified consultant (Walter P. Moore, Inc.) to perform the Socioeconomic and Demographic Data Forecast Update for use in the development of the 2015 – 2045 Travel Demand Model. He commented that MPO staff would adjust the overall Transportation Planning Fund (TPF) fund amount at the end of the year when he submits the Annual Performance and Expenditure Report. Ms. Lee asked for any comments or questions on the second quarter financial report. She received none.

c. Grouped TxDOT CSJ Projects Report

Ms. Lee reported there were several new grouped TxDOT CSJ projects added to the lists. She stated this was also the first time to show grouped projects in a quarterly format. This quarter included all projects from April, May, and June.

d. **Update on 2017 Prioritized Project List Activities and Preparations**

Mr. Barnett informed the committee of its annual preparations to update the Prioritized Project List. He stated WFMPO will prepare a list of “Let, Completed, and Under Construction” projects. WFMPO will hold two public meetings in August to gather comments on existing projects and recommendations for new projects. Mr. Barnett stated TAC will score and vet all projects in September and WFMPO staff will present the final product to TPC in October for review and approval.

e. **Other Items**

Mr. Barnett informed TAC of the upcoming TEMPO meetings and workshops in Harlingen. He informed the committee of a FHWA Notice of Funding Opportunity for Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA grants). Mr. Barnett stated he would attend a webinar that afternoon to gather further information.

VIII. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

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