



## MINUTES OF THE ABILENE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

June 20, 2017

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 20, 2017, in the City Council Chambers, Abilene City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, Texas.

### **Members Present:**

Mayor Norm Archibald, City of Abilene Mayor and Policy Board Chairman  
Judge Downing Bolls, Taylor County  
Councilman Bruce Kreitler, City of Abilene  
Judge Dale Spurgin, Jones County, and Policy Board Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Stan Swiatek, P.E., TxDOT Abilene District Engineer

### **Members Absent:**

None

### **Staff of Member Agencies in Attendance:**

Mr. James Oliver, CityLink General Manager  
Mr. Casey McGee, TxDOT Abilene Area Engineer  
Ms. Kelley Messer, City of Abilene Assistant City Attorney  
Mr. Larry Wright, City of Abilene City Engineer  
Mr. James Rogge, City of Abilene, Traffic Engineer  
Mr. Dan Richardson, TxDOT Abilene Director of Operations  
Mr. Michael Haithcock, TxDOT Abilene District TP&D Director  
Mr. Brandon Vinson, TxDOT, Engineering Assistant  
Mr. Michael Rice, City of Abilene Public Works Director  
Mr. Dana Schoening, City of Abilene, Director of Planning and Development Services  
Ms. Danette Dunlap, City of Abilene, City Secretary  
Ms. Alaisha Guerra, City of Abilene, Communications Media Relations Manager  
Mr. Cliff Hallford, TxDOT Project Controller II

### **MPO Staff in Attendance:**

Ms. E'Lisa Smetana, Abilene MPO, Executive Director  
Mr. Ed McRoy, Abilene MPO Transportation Planner II

#### **1. Call to Order.**

Chairman Archibald called the meeting of the Abilene MPO Policy Board to order at 1:34 p.m. He noted that a quorum was duly present.

#### **2. Consideration and possible action on the Minutes of the April 18, 2017 Meeting and the May 10, 2017 Special Meeting.**

Chairman Archibald called for any additions or corrections to the revised meeting minutes (*i.e. Draft #2*) as presented. Councilman Kreitler raised a concern with the proposed minutes of April 18, 2017. He indicated that comments attributed to Ms. Rochelle Johnson (*Agenda Item 4, Page 4 of 7*) inaccurately indicated she was in support of one-way traffic on both sides of Loop 322. He stated

that this needed to be corrected. Councilman Kreitler made the **motion** to approve the minutes of both meetings as presented excepting that the minutes of April 18, 2017 should be corrected as discussed with a **second** by Judge Bolls.

*Motion carries.*

**3. Consideration and possible action on a project along the east side in the vicinity of Loop 322 from SH 36 to Oldham Lane consisting of possible ramp relocation and reconfiguration of frontage road.**

Mr. Rice discussed the current design concept. He noted that based on previous direction from the Policy Board the current proposal focuses only on the east side of Loop 322. He noted that the ramp is planned to be relocated approximately ½ mile southward and the entire frontage road is to be established as one-way. The current estimated cost is \$700,000 broken down into \$500,000 from the MPO, \$100,000 from the City of Abilene, and \$100,000 from TxDOT. Mr. Rice stated that they are looking into the possibility of an additional access road but this is still a work in progress.

Mr. Swiatek stated that the project on the east side is an interim step. He indicated in order to increase through put in this area a second phase will be needed at some point. He indicated this might include providing one-way travel on the west side, simplifying the signal timing, providing improvements desired by the neighborhood and potentially adding a turn-around at the overpass. He stated that improving the intersection will relieve pressure on the neighborhood. Judge Spurgin suggested potentially altering the scope of existing projects instead of doing this as a new project.

Councilman Kreitler indicated he had some concern with only having one-way travel on the frontage road and not having the additional access road Mr. Rice spoke of yet. Mayor Archibald stated the TSTC project could go forward without the additional road.

Mayor Archibald made a **motion** to support the project as proposed with TxDOT funding categories to be determined with a **second** by Judge Spurgin.

*Motion carries. (Four In-Favor- Archibald, Bolls, Spurgin, Swiatek. One Opposed – Kreitler)*

**4. Consideration and possible action on an amendment to the MPO Ten-Year Project Plan.**

The Board discussed two potential actions. First, adding the Loop 322 East side project discussed in Agenda Item 3 (above) to the Ten-Year Plan in 2018. Second, modifying the scope of an existing project on the Ten-Year Plan to incorporate additional improvements that are desired but were not included in the Loop 322 East side project.

Mr. Swiatek discussed budget options available to TxDOT to fill in potential gaps or cost overruns in any given year. Ms. Smetana noted that the board needed to list the projects on the plan and that moneys in any given year could be adjusted at a later date.

Judge Spurgin made a **motion** to modify the Ten-Year Plan to 1) Change the current Loop 322 Frontage Road Project by altering the project limits to read Oldham Ln. to IH 20 Frontage Road and to 2) Add a project to the Ten-Year Plan as discussed in Agenda Item #3 (above) with a **second** by Mr. Swiatek.

*Motion carries.*

**5. Consideration and possible action on a FINAL FY 2018-2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).**

Ms. Smetana noted that this is a final document which is due on August 1, 2017. She identified all the changes made to the document from the previously draft. When questioned, Ms. Smetana noted that the use of any consultants contemplated in the plan would be brought back before the Policy Board for their specific approval before entering into any such agreements.

Councilman Kreitler made a **motion** to approve the UPWP as presented with a **second** by Judge Bolls.

*Motion carries.*

**6. Consideration and possible action on a Transit Asset Management Plan.**

Ms. Smetana explained that a new federal rule requires transit agencies by January 1, 2017 to submit a Transit Asset Management Plan. MPO's are then required to adopt plans within 180 days after this. The proposed MPO plan mirrors the adopted CityLink Plan in a condensed form.

Judge Spurgin made a **motion** to approve as presented with a **second** by Councilman Kreitler.

*Motion carries.*

**7. Discussion and Review of Transportation Projects.  
(By TxDOT Staff, City Staff, CityLink Staff)**

**TxDOT** - Mr. McGee briefed the Board on the following projects:

IH-20 bridge replacement at SH 351

Winters Freeway pavement rehab

US 83 & Southwest Drive intersection pavement replacement

Bus I-20 & MLK Bridge Repair

**City of Abilene** - Mr. Wright updated the Board on the following projects:

CBD Hotmix, (complete)	N 3 <sup>rd</sup> St., (complete)	S 20 <sup>th</sup> St, (complete)
Hardwick Rd.,	Ambler, (in construction)	Elm Creek Ped Bridge,
Transformer Trail,	Seal Coating,	Jennings Dr.
SODA hot mix		

N 5<sup>th</sup> St. (near City Hall) – Atmos Gas is excavating in search of a reported gas leak.

**CityLink** - Mr. Oliver updated the Board on the following:

CityLink has acquired two new busses

**8. Discussion and Review of Reports:**

• **Financial Status**

Ms. Smetana reported that the February and March billings have been submitted. She reports that carryover funds from 2016 have also been released. Authorization is \$406,650.54. The expended amount is \$102,312.45. The remaining balance is \$304,338.09.

• **Operation Report**

The initial review of the 2015 Base Year network has been completed for the Travel Demand Model. Some finalization is still needed. The next major phase of the project will include demographic work.

- **Director's Report**

No report.

**9. Opportunity for Members of the Public to Make Comments on MPO Issues.**

No comments received.

**10. Opportunity for Board Members or MPO Staff to Recommend Topics for Future Discussion or Action.**

Mayor Archibald noted that additional discussion will be need along Loop 322.

Ms. Smetana notified the Board that election of officers will be needed at the next meeting.

Mayor Archibald offered closing remarks on his departure from the Board and offered thanks to Board members, staff, the Technical Committee and others on their efforts.

Mr. Swiatek noted that he will be serving as the interim District Engineer until a replacement is selected for him. He added his thanks to all those who had assisted him during his time in Abilene.

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting was **adjourned** by Mayor Archibald at 2:50 p.m.