



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

December 17, 2019

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 17, 2019, in the City Council Chambers, Abilene City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, Texas.

Members Present:

Judge Downing Bolls, Taylor County (*Policy Board Vice-Chairman*)
Mr. Carl Johnson, P.E., TxDOT Abilene District Engineer
Councilman Shane Price, City of Abilene (*Policy Board Chairman*)
Judge Dale Spurgin, Jones County
Mayor Anthony Williams, City of Abilene

Members Absent

None

Staff of Member Agencies in Attendance:

Mr. Michael Haithcock, P.E. TxDOT Abilene District TP&D Director
Mr. Cliff Hallford, (PMP), TxDOT, Advanced Planning Manager
Mr. Greg McCaffery, P.E. City of Abilene Director of Public Works
Mr. Paul Norman, P.E., TxDOT, Abilene Area Engineer
Ms. Kelley Messer, City of Abilene First Assistant City Attorney
Mr. Mike Warrix, AICP, City of Abilene Director of Planning and Development Services
Mr. Michael Rice, P.E. City of Abilene Assistant City Manager
Mr. James Rogge, P.E. City of Abilene Traffic and Transportation
Ms. Tanya Brown, TxDOT Public Information Officer
Mr. Bobby Sharpe, CityLink, General Manager
Mr. Charlie Thomas, P.E., City of Abilene Interim City Engineer
Mr. Rob Rae, Walter P Moore Consultant
Mr. Nick Page, TxDOT TP&P MPO Coordinator

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 Price called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. He announced that public comment could be taken on any item appearing on the agenda during the discussion of that item.

2. Consideration and Action on the minutes of the October 22, 2019 joint meeting.

Chairman Price noted the "TxDOT" designation after Mr. Greg McCaffrey's name (listed in the section entitled Technical Advisory Committee Members Present) needed to be removed. He also stated in Agenda Item 6 (Paragraph 2), the word "competed" was a typo and should be "completed".

Judge Bolls made a **motion** to approve the October 22, 2019 minutes as corrected with a **second** by Mr. Johnson. *Motion carried (5-0).*

3. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on the FYs 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). (Consultants-Walter P. Moore)

Ms. Smetana introduced the item noting that a public comment period had run from November 20, 2019 thru December 9, 2019 with one comment received which has been included in the Appendix. She then noted that the plan had been recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at their November 19, 2019 meeting. She explained that in their action the TAC had recommended changes to three projects and provided authorization for MPO Staff to make additional modifications if needed after coordination with TxDOT to ensure the accuracy of these changes. The projects changed from the draft document included:

- 1) FM 707 from FM 89 to US 83 - MPO Staff is authorized to confirm and/or modify the work description and \$30 million cost as needed for accuracy.
- 2) US 83/84 between S. 7th and N. 10th Streets - Increase the project cost to \$60 million.
- 3) US 83/84 between N. 10th St and I-20 - Increase the project cost to \$40 million.

Mr. Rae then provided the Board with a detailed briefing on the final draft and the process used in its development. He noted that an important change from the previous draft is that projects from 2030 to 2045 which had not been determined are now included. He also noted that in addition to MPO Category 2U funded projects, other regionally significant ones were included that have all State money and some that have all City of Abilene funding. Ms. Smetana pointed out that the projects list in this final draft had been modified from the previous draft presented at their last meeting. She noted that the list now shows estimated total project costs and construction costs whereas only construction costs had been indicated in the previous draft. She stated that this document is tied to the Ten-Year Plan. This means changes made in the MTP to those applicable projects would need to be carried through in the Ten-Year Plan which is the next agenda item. She also noted that a grouped projects listing that is included might capture projects not specifically listed.

Chairman Price noted that the MPO is proposing \$20 million of funding toward the IH-20 widening in the area where a grade separation is being requested to allow Judge Ely Blvd to cross IH-20. Mr. Johnson stated that this MPO funding would help in obtaining funds from the State for additional IH-20 projects. Mayor Williams indicated his support for this as it represents good strategic long-term thinking for Abilene and the region.

Chairman Price opened a public hearing on the item and invited anyone who wished to speak on the matter to do so. After pausing and seeing no one indicating an interest in speaking he closed the public hearing.

Mayor Williams made a **motion** to approve the FYs 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) as presented, with a **second** by Judge Bolls. *Motion carried (5-0).*

4. Discussion and any Action on an update to the Ten-Year Plan.

Ms. Smetana explained that the Ten-Year Plan is a relatively new requirement that MPO's are required to complete in addition to the 25-Year Plan and the Four-Year Plan. She noted that the Policy Board had amended the Ten-Year Plan on June 19, 2018. With the adoption of the MTP, an amendment to the Ten-Year Plan is needed so that the applicable projects match. In discussing the draft document she noted that items in black font are from the currently approved plan, blue font show changes that staff presented to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and red font are changes that have been added by staff after action by the TAC. She said that a change has been made this year to show the difference in construction cost and total project cost. She pointed out that, using the funding projections from the approved UTP, the MPO will be out of funding in 2025 until 2029. Judge Bolls discussed some potential uncertainties related to anticipated funding. He then asked how

the MPO would respond should the projected amounts not materialize. Ms. Smetana stated that the money for these projections are estimates and they are State funds derived from propositions approved by voters. If the funding doesn't materialize as expected the later projects will be adjusted.

Judge Spurgin made a **motion** to approve the Ten-Year Plan as presented, with a **second** by Judge Bolls. *Motion carried (5-0).*

5. Discussion and review of transportation projects.

(By TxDOT Staff, City Staff, CityLink Staff)

TxDOT Mr. Paul Norman provided a report on the following projects:

S 1st St/East Hwy 80 - Paving has been completed. Some corrective work remains. Completion is expected in January of 2020. US 83/84 from FM 707 to the US 83/84 split project includes widening, intersection reconstruction, drainage work and the installation of a grade separated intersection. Project is slightly ahead of schedule. Completion is expected in 2021. FM 89 Mill and Fill from FM 707 to South Mabry - Project is complete. FM 89 Frontage Roads from US 277 to Waldrop project has been suspended until the Spring. SH 351 Sidewalk from Treadaway to IH-20 project will construct sidewalks, install pedestrian signals and make ADA improvements. Project has let and is expected to begin construction in the spring 2020. Highway 83/84 Lighting from N. 10th Street to IH-20 project will let in January 2020.

City of Abilene Mr. Charlie Thomas briefed the Board on the following projects:

Water Dept. Street Cut Repairs - Bids were awarded Oct 1, 2019. The project is 25% complete. CBD Concrete Street Repairs - Bids were received in November and awarded in December. Construction is anticipated in late January or early February 2020. Ridgemont Drive - Project is 90% complete. Concrete Valley Gutters various locations - Bids were received in August 2019. Project is 50% complete. Honeybee Realignment - Project is 50% designed. Bids are anticipated in May. S. Willis St. from S. 32nd St. to S. 14th St. - Project is 95% designed. Bids are anticipated in January 2020. N. 6th St.\Leggett Dr. from N. 1st St. to Grape St. - Plans are 95% complete. Bids are expected in January 2020. Butternut St. from S. 1st St. to Treadaway - Project design is 90% complete. Bids are expected in February. T&P Lane from ES 11th St. to E. Hwy 80 - Design is 95% complete. Bids are expected in January. Traffic signs at Ridgemont and Rolling Green - Plans are 95% complete. Bids are anticipated in January. Sayles Blvd. - This project will be outsourced for design. Bids are anticipated in May 2020. Griffith Rd. - Project is 10% designed. Bids are anticipated in March. Work Zone N3 & N10 Resurfacing. Bids were received today. Contract award is anticipated in January. Work Zone Area S15 Resurfacing - Bids were received today with contract award anticipated in January 2020. Work Zone S6 & S24 Micro-Surfacing - Plans are 95% complete. Bids are anticipated in January 2020. TASA Sidewalk - Design is 90% complete. Bids are anticipated in July 2020.

In response to a question by Chairman Price, Mr. Thomas explained that the N10, N3, and S15 designations in his report represent areas within the City where work is being performed rather than identifying specific streets. He stated that in each work zone area 6 to 10 streets may have some amount of work being performed. He indicated he would be able to provide a map of these areas in the future for greater clarity.

CityLink Mr. Bobby Sharpe briefed the Board on the following items:

Spill Bucket Replacement - A minor construction project to replace the spill buckets for underground fuel tanks in compliance with the new TCEQ requirements has been completed. Section 5339b Grant - The request submitted by CityLink for replacement of 7 large fixed-route buses, repowering of 2 fixed-route busses, and replacement of 12 paratransit vehicles was not approved. They will now be pursuing fleet replacement funds through a recently announced TxDOT Coordinated Call.

6. Discussion and review of reports:**• Financial Status**

Ms. Smetana reported that in addition to the Financial Summary, which was included within the Board Packet, she had provided the members with a handout of the Billing Summary. The final billing for the Fiscal Year 2019 was submitted November 20, 2019. The Financial Summary indicates total authorizations for FY 2019 at \$465,441.52 with expenditures of \$272,062.95 for a remaining balance of \$193,378.57. Work Order #1 for FY 2020 was received on November 25, 2019 showing an authorization of \$207,669.45.

• Operation Report**Tasks, Training Sessions, Meetings**

The Operation Report is included in the packet. The MPO staff has been working with consultants on the FYs 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Travel Demand Model (TDM). She noted the staff also worked on an update to the Ten-Year Plan and has started work on an Amendment #2 to the FYs 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

• Director's Report**Future Work Tasks**

The Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER) was submitted to TxDOT on December 14, 2019. The Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP) is in process but we are still awaiting information from TxDOT on highway projects. This report is due December 31. TxDOT staff has indicated they hope to provide the data before Christmas. Work on the Travel Demand Model (TDM) networks for 2020 and 2045 is progressing along with work on demographics. FWHA is expected to conduct a non-TMA audit sometime in early 2020. Staff will begin working on the FYs 2021-2024 TIP in near future.

7. Opportunity for members of the Public to make comments on MPO issues.

None.

8. Opportunity for Board Members, Technical Advisory Committee Members, or MPO Staff to recommend topics for future discussion or action.

Mr. Johnson used this time to thank Ms. Smetana, Mr. McRoy, and Mr. Rae for their work on the MTP. *No other comments were made.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION**9. 551.072 (Deliberations about real property) Discussion and any action on the lease of the MPO's office space.**

Chairman Price recessed the Policy Board into Executive Session at 2:15 p.m. pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, with the following issues discussed during the closed session: §551.072 (Deliberations about real property) Discussion and any action on the lease of the MPO's office space. The meeting reconvened to open session at 3:01 p.m. *Chairman Price reported that no votes or actions were taken in Executive Session.* He noted the MPO will continue to look at potential office space options.

10. Adjournment.

Mr. Johnson made a **motion** to adjourn with a **second** by Judge Spurgin. *Motion carried (5-0). Meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.*