



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

June 15, 2021

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 15, 2021 in the City Council Chambers, Abilene City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, Texas.

Members Present:

Judge Downing Bolls, Taylor County Judge
Councilman Shane Price, City of Abilene (*Policy Board Chairman*)
Judge Dale Spurgin, Jones County Judge (*Policy Board Vice-Chairman*)
Mayor Anthony Williams, City of Abilene

Members Absent:

Mr. Glenn Allbritton, P.E., TxDOT Abilene District Engineer

Staff of Member Agencies in Attendance:

Mr. Billy Dezern, TxDOT, Transportation Specialist
Ms. Nellie Doneva, City of Abilene, Videographer
Mr. Michael Haithcock, P.E., TxDOT, Abilene TP & D Director
Mr. Max Johnson, P.E., City of Abilene, Assistant Director of Public Works
Mr. Greg McCaffery, P.E., City of Abilene, Director of Public Works
Ms. Kelley Messer, City of Abilene, First Assistant City Attorney
Mr. Paul Norman, P.E., TxDOT, Abilene Area Engineer
Mr. Michael Rice, City of Abilene, Assistant City Manager
Mr. James M. Rogge, P.E., City of Abilene, Traffic Engineer
Mr. Bobby Sharpe, CityLink General Manager

MPO Staff in Attendance:

Ms. E'Lisa Smetana, Abilene MPO Executive Director
Mr. Benjamin LaBorde, Abilene MPO Transportation Planner I
Ms. Emma Darby, Abilene MPO Office Assistant III

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Louisa Parson, Christian Women's Job Corps

1. Call to Order.

Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 1:30 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 Take Action on the minutes of the April 20, 2021 meeting.

Judge Bolls made a motion to approve the April 20, 2021 minutes as presented, with a second by Judge Spurgin. *Motion carried (4-0).*

3. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion, and Take Action on the FINAL FY 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Ms. Smetana presented the item and explained that this document is the final version of the draft, which was seen at the previous Board meeting on April 20, 2021. She added that a few changes had been made since then, and that each change would be covered in the following report. The draft was presented to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on March 30, 2021 and approved by the Policy Board on April 20, 2021. The draft was then submitted to TxDOT on April 20, 2021. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) provided comments and feedback, which were addressed in the creation of the final document; these comments were acknowledged by TxDOT as well. The final document is due on August 1, 2021. The updated UPWP with FHWA comments was presented to the TAC, and they recommended approval to the Policy Board as presented. Referring to the provided packets and on-screen presentation, Ms. Smetana noted that, under Subtask 5.1, the Comprehensive Transportation Corridor Study: Loop 322/SH, she was unsure if \$110,000 would cover the project. Additionally, they are hoping to partner with others because spending \$110,000 would use the whole budget. She stated that the Transit Multimodal Facility was included under Special Studies (Task 5), and those funds are being handled through CityLink as FTA 5304 funds. Continuing to the next slide, she briefly overviewed the changes: TDCs were removed from the charts; a hyperlink to wtxrides.com was added on page 12; FTA 5304 funding was added to work tasks on pages 13, 15, and 16; and a date was added to the Boundary Map on page 21. She stated the action requested was approval for the FINAL FY 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) from the Board so that the document can be submitted by the August 1, 2021 deadline. Ms. Smetana then asked for any questions. With regard to the \$110,000 in Local Funds under Task 5, Chairman Price asked Ms. Smetana if she was requesting anything specific from the Board, or if she was merely bringing the amount to their attention. She replied that, due to the large amount of money, she wanted the Board to be aware. She also wanted to acknowledge that they would attempt to get partnerships for the project in order to obtain sufficient funding for the intended study. Chairman Price asked if Mr. Don Green at the Abilene Regional Airport and/or the Development Corporation of Abilene (DCOA) had yet been contacted. Ms. Smetana confirmed that she would do so. Chairman Price opened the floor for further questions, comments, or concerns one final time. Hearing none, he entertained a motion.

Mayor Williams made a **motion** to approve the FINAL FY 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as presented, with a **second** by Judge Bolls. *Motion carried (4-0).*

4. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion, and Take Action on the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects and the Annual Performance and Expenditure Report.

Ms. Smetana informed the Board that the year-end report, which was due in December 2020, was included in the provided packet. She reported that they had received FHWA/FTA acknowledgement and approval on both documents. The Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER) was approved on March 9, 2021 and the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP) was approved on June 7, 2021. The only change made to the ALOP was the addition of Project Sponsors at the request of FHWA. Ms. Smetana said that the TAC recommended approval on both the APER and the ALOP as presented. Ms. Smetana pointed out how, in each UPWP Task, at least 75% of the budgeted funds must be

used, and the amount spent cannot exceed 125% without explanation. As shown, the numbers were within that range so no explanations were necessary. In the Transit section, (which includes Local Planning Funds and FTA 5307 Funds) 100% of funding was expended. Ms. Smetana then asked for any questions. Hearing none, Chairman Price entertained a motion.

Judge Spurgin made a **motion** to approve the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects and the Annual Performance and Expenditure Report as presented, with a **second** by Mayor Williams. *Motion carried (4-0).*

5. Receive a Report and Hold a Discussion on the FHWA Enhanced Metropolitan Planning Review of the Abilene MPO.

Ms. Smetana presented the item, explaining to the Board that the Enhanced Metropolitan Planning Review is essentially an audit of the MPO conducted by the FHWA. This process began September of 2020, and the final report was received on April 12, 2021. A copy of the report was in the provided packets and included all recommendations and comments from the FHWA. This report was presented to the TAC at their May 25, 2021 meeting. Ms. Smetana reminded the Board that this item was for report and discussion and therefore required no action. She pointed out that FHWA provided two recommendations. It was recommended that the MPO take advantage of freight assistance as provided by FHWA and TxDOT. It was also recommended that the MPO complete the TxDOT Title VI Compliance Assessment Tool. Ms. Smetana then reported that the MPO was commended on working well with other departments, including the City, other local governments, local transit, and TxDOT. They were also commended on their Public Outreach and extensive contacts list. In conclusion, FHWA acknowledged that the MPO fulfilled all requirements and was considered satisfactory.

Hearing no questions, Chairman Price restated that this item required no action and proceeded to the next. *Discussion only - No vote taken.*

6. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion, and Take Action on CityLink's Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP).

Ms. Smetana introduced the item, informing the Board that, in 2018, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) required a Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan. This is relevant because the MPO is responsible for incorporating the aspects of the Safety Plan into all future projects. CityLink adopted their current safety plan on June 25, 2020. Ms. Smetana clarified, stating they are asking the Board to acknowledge the plan so that it may be incorporated into planning documents. She then gave the floor to Mr. Bobby Sharpe for more details.

Mr. Sharpe restated that the CityLink Agency Safety Plan was approved by City Council in the middle of June 2020 and then approved by TxDOT in the middle of July 2020. He continued, informing the Board that the FTA had extended the due dates to December 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but that all matters had been taken care of on time regardless. Referencing the information provided in the packet, Mr. Sharpe pointed out that the MPO would be involved in the performance measures - which are almost the same as those the Policy Board had seen previously in March from TxDOT. Throughout the

development of the PTASP, they had collected baseline data over the last five years. This data was judged on fatalities, rate of fatalities, injuries, rate of injuries, safety events, and rate of safety events, which are each a required element. The mean distance between major mechanical failures was also calculated. Mr. Sharpe noted that Abilene's public transit system has yet to experience a fatality, and he stated that they hopefully would never experience one. The reported number of injuries represented all injuries over the last five years divided by the total revenue miles traveled (between 7 and 8 thousand miles). Mr. Sharpe told the Board that Table 5 displayed the Baseline Performance Measures, with .8 fixed route and .6 demand response, resulting in a .22 and .12 rate of injuries, respectively. He said that this is the same information that has been carried forward to the targets, as seen on the next page. Moving to the next page of charts, Mr. Sharpe pointed out that the Safety Performance Targets have been divided between Fixed Route and Demand Response. As this was the first year of the Agency Safety Plan and the first year since gathering and analyzing the data, it was decided, along with the development consultants, that the best course of action was to use the baseline data to set the targets for the next year. Mr. Sharpe confirmed that this had been done and informed the Board that part of the PTASP is to review the plan annually. They are just completing the most recent annual review, and it shows that the next year's targets will remain the same. Mr. Sharpe pointed out that the MPO could include this in any planning documents moving forward. He also mentioned that another requirement with the Agency Safety Plan is to implement a safety management system, which has been done from the very beginning since he accepted his current position in Abilene. Mr. Sharpe specified the safety management system in use, naming the "Be Safe" Program, which provides positive reinforcement for exhibiting safe behaviors. A drastic improvement in the rate of accidents and rate of injuries has been seen with both employees and passengers. Near-Miss Reporting has also been implemented with each bus operator, which has also contributed to accident reduction. CityLink management has implemented a system to analyze the root cause of accidents and develop solutions. These solutions may include rerouting fixed routes or changing operating procedures. Mr. Sharpe offered to answer any questions, reminding the Board that the presented figures will be carried over into the next year.

Chairman Price asked Mr. Sharpe how these figures compare with other, similar MPOs around the state. Mr. Sharpe replied that, from what he has seen, Abilene's figures and targets are slightly lower than those of the other 10 agencies that he has read through so far. He gave more detail, informing Chairman Price that he had reviewed the plans of agencies across the country, with some offering their plans for the specific purpose of peer comparison. Mr. Sharpe said that the lower numbers were good, and indicated that they were right on target.

Judge Bolls made a comment, commending CityLink on their ability to navigate through obstacles downtown and overall attention to safety. Judge Spurgin asked if the numbers reflected injuries as a result of collisions or bus passengers boarding and exiting the bus. Mr. Sharpe replied that it was a combination of the two, and while analyzing the data a significant amount were a result of slips, trips, and falls. He added that, as a result of the continuing requirement of masks on public transport until mid-September, there had been accidents due to obstructed vision or distraction when entering the bus. In response,

CityLink's bus operators have been told to kneel the bus after stopping to allow for easier entrance, and to be aware of the potential hazard. Mr. Sharpe having concluded his statement, Chairman Price asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he confirmed with Ms. Smetana that the only required action was acknowledgement of the information.

Mayor Williams made a **motion** to acknowledge CityLink's Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) as presented, with a **second** by Judge Bolls. *Motion carried (4-0)*.

7. Discussion and update on the combined Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee Workshop scheduled for August 17, 2021.

Ms. Smetana presented the item, informing the Board that the Workshop has been scheduled and the room reserved. The Workshop will be held in the South Branch of the Abilene Public Library at the mall. She explained that the main goal for this item is to get information regarding topics that the Board would like to cover during the Workshop and to go over current suggestions. Referencing the presentation slide, Ms. Smetana listed the current Workshop topic suggestions as follows: the MPO Vision/Mission Statement; a refresher over the MPO's functions and relationship in the community for new TAC members and all current members; future projects for the next 10 years and beyond; the MPO Boundary Expansion as affected by the 2020 Census Data; current maps and potential map creation; and (per TxDOT request) project management including funding, design, consultant management, and environmental. She then opened the floor for suggestions.

Judge Bolls said that he assumed infrastructure would be a topic of conversation, as it is currently being emphasized in Washington. Ms. Smetana responded yes it would be on the agenda. Ms. Smetana also noted that the Board would have a regular meeting beforehand as planned. Judge Spurgin recommended that the language on the agenda be broad so as to avoid restriction, commenting that, as is the nature of a workshop, there will be no action items. Mayor Williams stated that, under future projects, he expects to discuss the expansion of I-20 and potentially Judge Ely.

Hearing no more suggestions, Chairman Price moved on to the next item. *Discussion only - No vote taken.*

8. Discussion and review of transportation projects.

(By TxDOT Staff, City Staff, CityLink Staff)

TxDOT - Mr. Paul Norman briefed the Board on the following projects:

Current Construction:

- Sites 1-5 are part of the same overall project, which concerns FM 707 and FM 1226. This project is wrapping up. There were issues with flooding which caused pavement damage, but after repair all that is needed is the final seal coat and signage completion; this is expected to take approximately six weeks.
- Sites 6-7 involve the overpass at Clark/Remington Rd. and FM 204. Although behind schedule, the project is progressing well. They are currently paving the final surface, and will finish the bridge rails soon. Signals are coming up and an ITS board, for which the foundation is being built this week. Despite being behind schedule, the project is expected to be completed in late July.

- Site 8 is the sidewalk project on SH 351 and Ambler Ave. The project is significantly behind schedule, and they are working with contractors to speed up the process. A lot of the sidewalk work is done, but the bridge work is falling behind. The last contractor's projection for completion was September. Finding this unacceptable, they are working with the current contractor to get back on track.
- Site 9 is the new Frontage Rd. on US 83 next to Lake Kirby. The project is progressing well and ahead of schedule. As with most of the other projects, weather has delayed work. Most of the paving is done, while a retaining wall and a barrier wall between the new Frontage Rd. and the main lanes still need to be put up. They will also need to put up signals. The project is scheduled to be complete in mid-to-late-summer.
- Site 10 is the flashing beacon signal at FM 1750/Industrial and Loop 322. The project is currently paused while a change order is processed in order for it to become a fully actuated signal. As the contractors are currently gathering materials, there is an expected 30-day delay.
- Sites 11-12 are mill and fill contracts on FM 1750 and SH 36 at E. S. 11th St. and Oldham Ln. Although the project is underway, the weather has created issues. Still, it is expected to finish ahead of schedule in mid-summer at the latest. Mr. Norman stated that this was predominantly a paving project.
- A final item, though it was not on the map, was a completed landscaping project. This project oversaw several monuments around Abilene, including one at the airport where a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held tomorrow.

Chairman Price expressed appreciation for TxDOT's response to the public outcry over the signal at Industrial and FM 1750. Mayor Williams added his appreciation for the quick response as well.

Mr. Norman briefed the Board on the following projects:

Planned Projects:

- There is an FM 89 widening project at Iberis Rd. just south of town. This project will install a left turn lane off FM 89, and is scheduled to let in August.
- A project for new lanes at Maple St. and FM 707 will also let in August. This intersection project will add both a left and a right turn lane onto Maple St. from FM 707.
- A project to install flashing beacons on Treadaway at Hill St. was let earlier in June. The project is expected to start in six to eight weeks.
- Sites 4 and 5 are part of the big project to rehabilitate and add lanes to FM 89 and is scheduled to let in August. Start on the project is delayed until January in order to avoid the holidays—especially around the mall area.
- On FM 600 in Jones County there is a rehabilitation project scheduled for an August 2021 letting.
- FM 1082 is a rehabilitation project that is scheduled for a 2025 letting.
- There will be a bridge construction project at US 83 in Jones County that will let in August 2025.
- There is a preventative mill and fill maintenance on I-20 scheduled for an August

- 2023 letting. This will take care of the textured pavement in that area.
- Highway improvement at FM 89 and Antilley Rd. is currently scheduled for an August 2023 letting. This is part of an MPO project.
 - There will be improvement made to the “Y” interchange on US 83/84. There will also be widening at US 84. These projects are both scheduled for an August 2024 letting.
 - There will be a road widening and added shoulders at FM 1235 in Taylor County. This is scheduled to let in August 2024.
 - There will be a resurfacing project on FM 605 that will let in 2025.

Mr. Norman offered to answer any questions. Chairman Price stated that, at the last City Council meeting, the Council had approved notice for potentially selling bonds for reconstruction on Maple St. He then asked Mr. Norman if Planned Site 2, the construction of new lanes at FM 707 on Maple St., would interfere with this, or potentially tear out previously done work. Mr. Norman assured him that TxDOT has been coordinating with City staff to ensure that everything works together. Chairman Price then asked the Board if there were any other questions; hearing none, he then moved to the City of Abilene report.

City of Abilene – Mr. McCaffery briefed the Board on the following projects. He mentioned that there had been some percentage completion change since the information had been submitted for the provided packets.

- The Water Department is conducting miscellaneous street repairs, including utility cuts. The project is about 75% complete. Mr. McCaffery reported that the department handles roughly 400 utility cuts annually through this project. The project is ongoing, and the department gets about 35 utility cuts a month. Mr. McCaffery said that there is a bit of a backlog currently due to the freeze that occurred in February.
- The Central Business District (CBD) concrete street repair project is 85% complete. The project includes eight intersections, and there is work currently being done on both 2nd and 3rd St. The project should be complete around the 2nd week in July at the latest. Mr. McCaffery noted that the Downtown Parking Striping Project will follow directly behind this.
- There will be restriping throughout the entirety of the CBD streets bounded by 1st St. up to N. 6th St., with Hickory St. to the west and Walnut to the east. The contractor is already mobilized. They are conducting pad removals this week on Hickory. Striping on the North-South streets is anticipated to start the next week—or the following week, at the latest. There will be a second mobilization in which they will finish the East-West streets.
- Construction on Sayles Blvd. is still listed, as there are about six minor punch list items that still remain. After those items are done, the project will be completed.
- The TASA (Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program) sidewalk project is continuing and is 45-50% complete. There is still sidewalk installation along S. Clack and S. 14th.
- Work zones N5, N8, N14, S10, and S17 are still handled by the same contractor, Raydon. Specifically on S10 and S17, they are placing the final course of asphalt. These areas are located on either side of McMurry University. That project is 45% complete. They intend to finish S17 this week, then move over and complete S10

- over the next several weeks. The project should move to the north work zones (N5, N8, and N14) in July or August.
- The Airport Blvd. project is 99% complete. All that is left are minor punch list items and striping.
 - The Pine St. area rehabilitation project includes three intersections: at 19th St., 21st St., and N. 9th St. The outer lanes of the two northern intersections have been completed, and they are working to change the interior lanes from asphalt to concrete this week. They are putting in the D-mix this week on N. 18th from Pine St. to Treadaway. This project, as well as the next Street Fee Maintenance project on Southwest Dr. are handled by Bontke Brothers Construction Co., Inc.
 - The project on Southwest Dr. from Sharon St. to S. Clack St. has not yet been started. They are looking to do the work in front of the commercial businesses on a weekend.
 - The Griffith Rd. from EN 10th to Marathon Rd. project is nearing the completion of Phase 1 of 2. This was done in two phases to allow for continual traffic use. The project is 35-40% complete.
 - The Citywide crosswalk replacement project is being done with Flat Line Inc.; it has not started yet, but should begin within the next week or two. The project covers various crosswalks in front of schools and involves several railroad crossings.
 - As mentioned, removals have already started for the Downtown parking project and striping should occur in the next couple of weeks.
 - Work zones N15B and S11A—called “Bonus Zones” by Mr. McCaffery—are projects designed as a result of favorable pricing on earlier street maintenance projects. As these projects were awarded by the City Council at their last meeting, they have not yet started. A preconstruction meeting is expected to be scheduled next week.
 - The project on Willis St. is 100% complete. They are completing the final pay estimate for the project. A minor change order was approved by the administration and done last week.
 - The Honey Bee Road re-alignment project, done as part of the Ft. Lake Phantom lot sales, is 50% through the designing process. A complete re-alignment, the residential driveways will be extended and widened. The road is currently about 16 feet wide and will be changed to the standard size, including bar ditches. Mr. McCaffery responded to a question from Judge Spurgin in regards to drainage easements, then Chairman Price asked for further questions; hearing none, he moved to Mr. Bobby Sharpe for the CityLink report.

CityLink – Mr. Sharpe provided the Board with the following updates:

- Noting a change that has been made since submitting the CityLink updates in writing, Mr. Sharpe informed the Board that they have already begun the onboarding process for the new paratransit scheduling software, Ecolane. This was approved by City Council on May 27, 2021. The date that the software will go live is anticipated to be August 1, 2021.
- CityLink has placed an order for nine new replacement cutaway buses. This was approved by City Council on June 10, 2021. The new cutaways do not require CDLs for operation, as they are rated for 14-passenger capacity.

- An RFQ will be released soon to hire a consulting firm to help pull together the feasibility and planning related to the new multi-modal transit facility in Abilene. At the current stage, the project is being funded 100% by TxDOT. This includes the planning, preliminary engineering, and design phase. CityLink will continue to pursue funding for the new facility.

Mr. Sharpe offered to answer any questions. Hearing none, Chairman Price closed the item.
Discussion only — no vote taken.

9. Discussion and review of reports:

• Financial Status

Ms. Smetana informed the Board that there were two billings included in the packets: February 2021 and March 2021. Additionally, she said, the MPO had received the third work order, which are the carryover funds. The February billing was \$18,043.32, the March billing was \$17,966.56, and the carryover funds were \$180,508.83. This resulted in a total authorization of \$443,718.92. The expenditure to date was \$113,579.52, and there was a remaining balance of \$330,139.40. Ms. Smetana offered to answer any questions over the Financial Status Report.

For the minutes, Chairman Price noted that Mayor Williams had left the Board meeting.

As there were no questions, Chairman Price moved forward to the Operation Report.

• Operation Report

Tasks, Training Sessions, Meetings

Ms. Smetana stated that the full report, running from April 10 – June 4, 2021, was included in the packet. She gave an overview of the report.

As there were no questions, Chairman Price moved forward to the Director's Report.

• Director's Report

Work Tasks

- **MPO Office Assistant Job** – Ms. Smetana introduced both of her new employees. Though he has been working for the MPO since October, Mr. Ben LaBorde had only been introduced to the Board virtually. He is the GIS person and Transportation Planner. Ms. Smetana credited Mr. LaBorde for the creation of maps and recent website updates. Ms. Emma Darby was recently hired as the MPO Office Assistant. She is currently attending college to pursue her master's in English. Ms. Darby started on June 1, 2021.
- **MPO Boundary Expansion** – Ms. Smetana said there were no updates available on the MPO Boundary Expansion at this time.
- **Transportation Alternatives Program** – Ms. Smetana told the Board that she would show pictures of the projects shortly. The project located on Old Anson Rd. between W. Stamford St. and Ambler Ave. would be a five-foot-wide

sidewalk, pedestrian improvements, and a designated bike route—should funding be secured. The second project, located on the north side of S. 14th St. from Pioneer Dr. to Barrow St., would be a five-foot-wide sidewalk and include a pedestrian bridge over Catclaw Creek. They are working with the City on applications for funding for these projects. Everything was turned in on Friday, June 11, 2021.

Chairman Price asked if the TASA projects would end at Pioneer Dr. Ms. Smetana confirmed this and pointed to the map, explaining that the S. 14th St. project would connect to already-existing sidewalk on Pioneer Dr. from the 2017 TASA project. This area was indicated in green on the map. She continued, saying that the other project would run down from W. Stamford St. to Ambler Ave.

- **Ride of Silence Event (May 19th)** – Ms. Smetana reminded the Board that this event took place on May 19, 2021 to honor bicyclists that have been killed in accidents in Abilene and the surrounding area. The event also raised awareness of cyclists and reminded citizens to share the roads. Nine cyclists have lost their lives in Taylor/Jones County. Steamboat Cycling Club hosted the event with partners including the Abilene MPO, Abilene Bicycle Club, Bike Town, TxDOT D.R.I.V.E. Safe Coalition, Abilene Police Department, and McMurry University.
- **Ride to Work Day (June 21st)** – This event will be held on June 21, 2021. Ms. Smetana informed the Board that this event was first held on July 22, 1992 worldwide. Abilene has taken part in this event every year since 2012 (with the exception of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic). Ride to Work Day also advocates and supports the use of motorcycles for transportation and provides awareness that we all share the road so “Look Twice to Save a Life.” Ms. Smetana reported to the Board that, in Taylor County from January 01, 2011 through June 4, 2021, there were 713 crashes involving a motorcyclist, 38 of which were fatal. In Jones County during that same time, there were 37 crashes involving a motorcyclist, 3 of which were fatal. Partners on this event includes the MPO, the D.R.I.V.E. Safe Coalition, Kent’s Harley Davidson—which is providing a free meal, the City of Abilene, Abilene Police Department—who will lead the cyclists safely through town, TxDOT, Townsquare Media (Rock 108 & Kool FM 100.7, Abilene Safety Instruction, and the Taylor County Expo Center.

Hearing no questions, Chairman Price closed the item and moved to the next. *Discussion only — no vote taken.*

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

Ms. Louisa Parson from One Favor Virtual Clubhouse stated that she networked with Tanya Brown at TxDOT District Public Information when she had a concern about traffic speed on FM 707. As a result of that, Ms. Parson attended the “Click-It or Ticket” event the next day for a photo shoot. Ms. Parson elaborated on her efforts to help in the community to make it safer. Thanking Ms. Parson for involvement in helping others, Chairman Price called for other public comments. Seeing none, he closed the item.

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

None presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Abilene Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Board reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any item on the agenda as authorized by Texas Government Code Sections: 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about real property) 551.073 (Deliberations about gifts and donations), 551.074 (Personnel matters), and 551.076 (Deliberations about security devices). After discussion in executive session, any action or vote will be taken in public.

12. 551.074 (Personnel matters) Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion, and Take Action on the Evaluation of the Executive Director.

Chairman Price advised the public that the Board would be going into Executive Session, pursuant to 551.074 for personnel matters for the purpose of Evaluation of the Executive Director. He then recessed the meeting at 2:26 p.m. The public meeting was reconvened at 2:49 p.m. *No votes or action was taken during the Executive Session.*

13. Adjournment.

With no further business, Chairman Price adjourned the meeting at 2:49 p.m.