

WICHITA FALLS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Technical Advisory Committee
Minutes

Wednesday, January 5, 2005

Voting Members Present:

Darron Leiker – City of Wichita Falls – ACM/Dir. Aviation, Traffic & Trans., Interim MPO Director
Danny Brown – TxDOT, Director of Trans. Planning and Development
Dave Clark – City of Wichita Falls, Dir. of Community Development
James Kelley – TxDOT, Area Engineer
Jeff Hogan – City of Wichita Falls, City Engineer
Joe Anderson – TxDOT, Director of Construction
Karen Montgomery-Gagné – City of Wichita Falls, Community Development Planner III
Mark Beauchamp – City of Wichita Falls, Traffic Superintendent
Tim Hertel – TxDOT, Director of Operations

Others Present:

Carolyn Askins – TxDOT, Transportation Planning Assistant
Donnie Arbeau – City of Wichita Falls MPO, Transportation Planner I
Lin Barnett – City of Wichita Falls MPO, Transportation Planner III

Highway Needs Committee Members:

Bettye Tanner-Shelby

Visitors:

Tim Juarez – TxDOT, (TPP) Austin

Absent:

I. Welcome & Introduction

Mr. Leiker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone present.

II. Approval of the October 6th and November 17th TAC Meeting Minutes

There were no comments. Mr. Hogan motioned to accept both sets of minutes and Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Review and Comment Regarding TPC's October 20th and December 3rd Meeting Minutes - *No Action Required*

No comments were made.

IV. Discussion, Comment and Recommendation to TPC to Approve the 2005-2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

Mr. Leiker opened the floor for discussion on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update. He summarized events of the last few weeks leading up to today's meeting. Mr. Leiker stated staff had received several comments back from MPO board members and citizen stakeholders. He commented on the size and length of the document stating it contained a large amount of valuable information.

Mr. Clark commented that he and Mr. Barnett had worked together supplying Mr. Kroeker from Lockwood, Andrews and Newnam, Inc. (LAN) last minute comments and updates for inclusion into the MTP, especially the bicycle plan, and that he was satisfied with the work done thus far. Mr. Leiker refreshed everyone's memory regarding the Public Hearing on the MTP scheduled for January 12, 2005 and the approval of the document at the January 20, 2005 Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) meeting. He reminded everyone the document was due in to Austin by January 24, 2005, and that any further comments should be forwarded to staff before the 20th.

Ms. Gagne inquired if there would be a state maintained on-system roadway map and tables added to Chapter 5 – Area Transportation Issues. Mr. Barnett stated he would check with Mr. Kroeker to ascertain whether or not there would be any tables or maps included.¹ Ms. Gagne also inquired about revisions to Chapter 8 – Financial Analysis, specifically the long-range projects. Mr. Brown stated the majority of long-range and non-funded projects were located in the appendices of Chapter 8. Ms. Askins took a moment to go over the appendices at the end of Chapter 8 explaining what projects were in each one. Mr. Clark inquired if some of the City projects had been taken out in respect to the City's Thoroughfare Plan where they had also been removed i.e. Lebanon Street. Mr. Leiker stated that the Public Works Director, Mr. Scott Taylor, had informed him of some cost estimate changes to city projects that he would be forwarding to MPO staff.² Mr. Leiker commented that City Council had adopted the proposed City Thoroughfare Plan the day before³ and that it would be included in Chapter 5 as an appendix for reference as a City document only.

Mr. Juarez commented that at the MTP Public Hearing the public should be made aware of what changes were made between the first public meetings and the final product. Mr. Clark stated significant changes were made, especially to the Bicycle Master Plan. Mr. Barnett stated the deadline for map changes was January 6, 2005. Mr. Barnett briefly went over the changes to the MTP that were submitted by Mr. Clark.

¹ Mr. Kroeker with LAN confirmed there would be a state maintained on-system roadway map included in Chapter 5 of the MTP update.

² Mr. Taylor informed staff the bicycle trail cost, on the City of Wichita Falls project list, would change to \$1.2 million dollars. No other changes were made to the City of Wichita Falls section of the project list.

³ January 4, 2005

Mr. Clark motioned to forward the MTP to TPC for their approval contingent upon the double-checking for accuracy of all the chapters, tables, and maps discussed during today's meeting. Mr. Hertel seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

V. Review and Comment on the 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Draft – *No Action Required, For Informational Purposes Only*

Mr. Leiker stated this document would need to be reviewed by TAC and approved by TPC at the April quarterly meetings. Ms. Askins commented the statewide CSJ's were included in this installment of the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) as an appendix, but no other changes were made to the original format.

VI. Review and Comment on the FY 2004 Annual Performance and Expenditure Report – *No Action Required, For Informational Purposes Only*

Mr. Leiker stated the document was submitted to TxDOT at the end of December, 2004 and staff was awaiting comments back from Austin. Mr. Barnett commented that he felt the MPO had done well during FY 2004 to accomplish goals and to stay within budget. He stated the MPO exceeded 100% in only one task, Task 5 – Special Studies, but that it came as no surprise considering the cost of the Socioeconomic Data and Forecast Study and the work done on the Bicycle Master Plan. He reminded everyone of the one-time General Transportation Planning Funds (GTPF) received from the state that were allocated specifically for the MTP update and that were included in the final tally of Transportation Planning Funds (TPF) used. Total combined TPF and GTPF funds utilized were 86.90%. Total TPF funds only utilized were 93.96%. Mr. Barnett also commented the Annual Project Listing was included in the back as Appendix "A".

VII. Initial Discussion and Recommendation of Subtasks for the FY 2006 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Barnett stated the purpose for the list handed out at the meeting was to help everyone begin to formulate ideas for projects and tasks to be accomplished in FY 2006. He stated the list would be discussed more thoroughly at the next quarterly meeting. Mr. Clark asked if the special study on Kemp Blvd., the traffic signal optimization study, could be instituted more rapidly than expected due to the increased traffic congestion in that area. He also commented that Loop 11 had been receiving many comments at City Council meetings on whether or not Lebanon Street should continue through to Loop 11 or should Beverly Drive swing over to Avenue H and connect up to Kemp. He stated the concern with Lebanon Street would be the effect on 80 houses in that area. Mr. Hogan stated he would check with the Public Works Director on these issues. Mr. Beauchamp stated he would look into the timing patterns of 9th, 10th and Avenue K at Kemp Street. He stated, because of their close proximity, 9th and 10th streets create unique problems in traffic progression. Ms. Gagne commented that U-turns should be investigated on Kemp Blvd. because of safety concerns. Mr. Leiker reminded everyone that the draft of the FY 2006 UPWP must be in Austin by June 1,

2005. Mr. Juarez recommended that staff provide the TAC a list of eligible activities as described in the MPO workshop training book and any past eligible activities.

VIII. Other Business:

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

City Report: Mr. Hogan stated the City is currently working on the FY 2003/2004 street rehabilitation project, which is 20% complete. He stated there would be an upcoming bid for the Faith Village Phase II and III projects in March of this year. These projects will involve extensive work on Kemp Blvd.

TxDOT Report: Mr. Kelley reported that work on FM 2380 will soon begin. He stated there was some diamond grinding and striping left to do on the Scott Street Bridge. The Sikes Lake Phase II, restroom facilities, are on schedule and the enhancement projects at Maurine and Jacksboro are ongoing, but delayed due to weather.

b. MPO Quarterly Financial Report (4th Quarter – Jul, Aug, Sep)

Mr. Barnett summarized the final quarter for FY 2004 commenting that the GTPF funds were treated as a separate funding source from the TPF funds the MPO normally receives. He stated the normal TPF expenditures for FY 2004 reached 93.96%. Mr. Juarez stated the MPO's planning activities worked out very well for FY 2004 even with all the projects that were going on at the same time. He stated the MPO did a very good job using the Transportation Planning Funds locally.

c. Update on Wilbur Smith Associates Socioeconomic Data Forecast and Study – Resolution of List of Comments Generated by TxDOT Demographers

Mr. Barnett explained he had sent numerous emails and made several phone calls to Wilbur Smith Associates to resolve the list of comments made by the TxDOT demographers on the Socioeconomic Data Forecast and Study. He stated a letter would be sent out to management at Wilbur Smith in the next few days asking them to resolve the situation, which has gone on far too long. Mr. Barnett stated his office had made numerous inquiries about the discrepancies in the data, always with the same result: no response. When asked, he stated the list of comments had been forwarded to WSA before Thanksgiving of 2004. Ms. Gagne inquired if all the contract funding had been paid in yet. Mr. Leiker commented that approximately 10% was being held back pending resolution of the comment list. Questions were raised as to whether or not recourse on the contract could be pursued. Mr. Leiker stated that the option would be investigated. Mr. Juarez recommended carbon copying the Wichita Falls TxDOT District Engineer, Mr. Larry Tegtmeyer, and himself with the letter when it was mailed to WSA.

d. Other

Mr. Leiker informed the board members of the likelihood of a Special Called Meeting in February. The purpose of the meeting would be for approval of the Functional Classification Maps due into the state by February 23, 2005. Once reviewed and approved by TAC they will be forwarded to TPC for final approval. Mr. Barnett informed the board that more information would be forwarded to them when it became available.

Ms. Gagne questioned TxDOT about development along Lawrence Road at Tray Drive, the Callfield reliever project and along Winona.

IX. Public comment on any item not on the agenda

No comments were received.

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10: 50 a.m.

Darron Leiker
Interim MPO Director, TAC Chairperson
Interim City Manager