

WICHITA FALLS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Technical Advisory Committee
Minutes

Wednesday, April 7, 2004

Voting Members Present:

Darron Leiker – City of Wichita Falls – ACM/Dir. Aviation, Traffic & Trans., Interim MPO Director
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 MPO, Planner III

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 II
Barbara Lingle– Representative Farabee’s Office

Highway Needs Committee Members:

Visitors:

Jon Möller – Stakeholder Citizen
Keith Hall – MTP Consultant, Lockwood, Andrews and Newman, Inc.

Absent:

Danny Brown – TxDOT, Director of Trans. Planning and Development
Tim Hertel – TxDOT, Director of Operations

I. Welcome & Introduction.

Mr. Leiker, the interim MPO Director, began the meeting at 8:32 a.m. and introduced Mr. Donnie Arbeau as the new Transportation Planner I with the City of Wichita Falls. He then introduced Mr. Keith Hall, MTP consultant with Lockwood, Andrews and Newman, Inc.

II. Approval of January 7th meeting minutes

There were no comments. Mr. Clark motioned to accept the minutes and Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Review and Comment Regarding the TPC’s January 21st Meeting Minutes – No Action Required

No comments were made.

IV. Review and Comment Regarding the TPC's March 24th Meeting Minutes – No Action Required

Mr. Clark stated that his name should be entered into the attendance record for this meeting. No other comments were made.

V. Discussion and Recommendation of May Amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Gagne inquired about the projects marked with asterisks on pages 26 & 27 of the meeting packet as to their status. Mr. Barnett stated they were marked that way because it had not been determined yet as to whether they would remain on the TIP. Ms. Askins and Mr. Kelly stated the projects would remain on the list.

Mr. Clark motioned to forward the May TIP revisions to TPC for approval. Mr. Kelley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VI. Discussion and Recommendation on Amending Appendix J of the FY 2004 UPWP – Updating the Environmental Justice Target Area Map (Revision 2)

Mr. Barnett briefly explained the second revision to the map stating that it was now based on the most recent HUD data available for Qualified Census Tracts and CDBG Census Tracts from the 2000 U.S. Census. Mr. Hogan asked if the map passed Community Development standards. Mr. Clark and Ms. Gagné both commented that they had worked with Mr. Barnett to ensure that it did. Mr. Leiker commented that the gradation was added to help distinguish the different levels within the target area. Mr. Möller asked how the Census 2000 race and ethnicity statistics could be compared to the household income data on which the map was based. Mr. Barnett stated he had originally developed that information for Mr. Barton, but that it was not as reliable as the data he had received from HUD. Mr. Möller requested that the race and ethnicity data become included in future Environmental Justice updates. Mr. Anderson requested the source documents for the map also be included with the map inside the UPWP to help clarify the document.

Mr. Leiker asked for a motion to forward the map to TPC for approval. Mr. Anderson motioned to forward for approval. Mr. Hogan seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

VII. Discussion and Recommendation for TAC and TPC Board Members to Attend a Future Workshop on MPO Procedures

Ms. Askins gave handouts to all present and explained that TxDOT sponsors workshops from time to time on Urban Transportation Planning. The workshops are designed to help new TAC and TPC board members become more productive for the MPO. She gave a basic outline of the workshop and discussed the time commitment needed from each member. She then asked the TAC members to provide her with input as to whether or not this would be something they would want to do.

Mr. Clark made a motion to support the idea of forming a training session for all MPO board members. Mr. Kelley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VIII. Discussion and Recommendation of Ideas, Projects and Studies for the FY 2005 UPWP

Mr. Barnett stated that if anyone had anything they wanted included in the FY 2005 UPWP, in the way of projects or studies, to please forward it to him.

IX. Introduction of Consultant Performing the 2005 – 2030 MTP Update to MTP Steering Committee

(This item was reserved for the final item of business).

Mr. Leiker introduced Mr. Keith Hall, with Lockwood, Andrews and Newman, Inc., the Project Leader for the MTP Update. Mr. Hall discussed the need to address a draft set of potential goals for the MTP. He provided a handout on the subject. Mr. Hall informed the board members of the Public Meetings that were scheduled in early May and discussed the need to complete analysis of the MTP from 2000 forward to the present. He discussed the distribution of flyers on the meetings and how they would be advertised on Cable Channel 11, the City's website, newspapers and other various media outlets. He stated the goal was to go out to the public and inform them of what has been accomplished and to look at what changes in state legislation have taken place. He asked the members of the steering committee to provide any comments on the goals and objectives as soon as possible in order to keep the process moving forward.

Mr. Leiker directed staff to send, via email, copies of the scope and schedule formulated by Mr. Hall to the steering committee.

Discussion then migrated to the subjects of the City's Thoroughfare Plan and the possibilities of using Pass-Through or Shadow Tolling to complete the Kell projects, specifically the Kell Interchange. The City of Abilene currently has a working Pass-Through Tolling project. Staff was directed to investigate this and report back at the next TAC meeting.

X. Other Business:

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

Mr. Hogan discussed progress on the Faith Village drainage improvement project – traffic control – which should complete by July. He discussed ongoing minor reconstruction around the area and also the 2004 CDBG street projects to be advertised soon. Mr. Leiker stated the Taxiway B at the Kickapoo Downtown Airpark would soon be ready for use as a temporary runway for the next phase – total reconstruction of the main runway.

Mr. Kelley discussed the progress on FM 369 and the Scott Street Bridge. August 13 is the target date for completion of the bridge. He discussed FM 2380 and stated it should be complete by late summer. He stated the retaining wall at the entrance to the city is nearing completion. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for repair on the US 281 frontage road. He stated the first phase of Sikes Lake had been completed and the second phase would begin shortly.

Mr. Barnett gave out handouts on the Statewide Preservation Program, which are a request by TxDOT for public review and comment on the draft 2005 SPP.

b. Update on Staff Changes at the City and TxDOT

Mr. Leiker stated he had already introduced Mr. Arbeau at the beginning of the meeting as a new member of the Transportation Planning Division. He asked Ms. Askins to comment on the changes occurring at TxDOT. Ms. Askins stated the new District Engineer, Mr. Larry Tegmeyer would start April 12 while the new Director of Transportation and Development, Mr. Danny Brown was already on the job. Mr. Anderson stated that Mr. Phillip Lujan had already left for his new position in Beaumont.

c. MPO Quarterly Financial Report (1st Quarter – Oct, Nov, Dec) – No Action Required

Approved 7-7-04

Mr. Barnett gave a brief overview of the 1st Quarter Expenditures for the MPO commenting that he had not received all of the data from Finance yet in order to compute 2nd Quarter expenditures. No action was required; the report was for informational purposes only and would be forwarded to TPC for their review.

d. Public Comment on Anything Not on the Agenda

Mr. Leiker asked for any public comments on anything not on the agenda. There were none.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Darron Leiker
Interim MPO Director, TAC Chairperson
ACM, Director of Traffic, Transportation and Aviation