

WICHITA FALLS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Technical Advisory Committee
Minutes

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Voting Members Present:

Darron Leiker – City of Wichita Falls – Interim City Manager, 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
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
Lin Barnett – City of Wichita Falls MPO, Transportation Planner III

Highway Needs Committee Members:

Visitors:

Shirin Pajoochi - City of Wichita Falls, City Engineering

Absent:

Danny Brown – TxDOT, Director of Trans. Planning and Development
Joe Anderson – TxDOT, Director of Construction

I. Welcome & Introduction

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

II. Approval of the January 5th and February 9th TAC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Leiker asked for comments on the minutes. There were none. Mr. Clark motioned to approve both sets of minutes. Mr. Hertel seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Review and Comment Regarding TPC's January 20th and February 18th Meeting Minutes - *No Action Required*

No comments were received.

IV. Discussion and Recommendation to Forward the 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) to TPC for Final Approval and Submission to Austin

Mr. Leiker stated the draft was included in the meeting packets for a final review, by TAC, for inconsistencies and errors before being submitted for approval to TPC at the April 20th meeting. Ms. Askins summarized the changes to the TIP project list and discussed the addition of the CSJ project list at the end of the document. Mr. Leiker brought the Brook Street/Business 277A mill and overlay to the board's attention. Mr. Kelley stated that TxDOT was bringing in a consultant to determine if improvement to that intersection should be done.

Mr. Hogan stated the dates under Section E – Progress From Previous Years – of the TIP should be updated. Ms. Askins stated she would work with staff to make updates to Section E.

The board then began a discussion of the Maureen Street/IH-44 landscaping project and the mowing contract for that area. Mr. Hertel explained the contract requirements and the cycle times for mowing. He commented that the City would be able to mow more frequently than the state. Mr. Leiker commented that this was something the city should possibly investigate. Mr. Kelley stated the Jacksboro Highway landscaping project was nearing completion.

Mr. Kelley motioned to forward the TIP, with date revisions to Section E, to the TPC for their approval. Mr. Hogan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

V. Review, Discussion and Revision of the 2006 Unified Planning Work Program – No Action Required

Mr. Leiker described the work done by staff, to this point, on the creation of the FY 2006 UPWP. He informed the board of the June 1st draft deadline and the August 1st final deadline for submission of the document. Mr. Clark discussed the upcoming aerial flight and the need to know the approximate amount of MPO dollars that could be contributed to the project. The aerial project would have multiple entities contributing funds toward its completion. Mr. Clark stated he had heard this item would be coming before the next City Budget meeting for discussion. Mr. Leiker commented that a subtask could be inserted into the UPWP for this project before final submission to Austin if everyone was in agreement.

Mr. Barnett outlined the new UPWP and the significant changes from last year to the current year. He discussed the Planning Emphasis Areas (PEA's) and the addition of one new PEA to the required five. He then went through each of the five main tasks commenting on any new subtasks and what the MPO hoped to achieve in FY 2006.

Mr. Leiker commented that the budget numbers were only an estimate, and that they were rather low, but that the correct budget numbers would be presented at the next

TAC meeting. He stated, at this time, there was no current year carryover with which to use in computations.

VI. Other Business:

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

City Report: Mr. Hogan stated the 2004 street rehabilitation project would soon be finished; the 2005 projects would total \$1.8 million of primarily asphalt work with \$200,000 allocated to CDBG type work to be advertised and awarded within the next 45 days. He discussed the upcoming Windthorst Road project; concrete work replacing asphalt north of the bridge. Mr. Hogan reported on the Faith Village project Phases 2 and 3 on Kemp Blvd. north of Southwest Pkwy. They would be pushed back until late in the year.

TxDOT Report: Mr. Kelley discussed progress and expected completion times on the Maureen Street/IH-44 and the Jacksboro Highway landscaping projects. He stated that a bridge repair at FM 325 going under IH-44 would begin in the next ten days. He also stated a Novachip project on Jacksboro Highway would begin around July 1st as well as a Novachip project on US 287 between Jolly and Henrietta.

Mr. Clark mentioned that City Council would be pursuing a Tax Increment Financing District, which may ultimately have an effect on some Thoroughfare planned projects, particularly the connection from Lawrence to Rhea Roads. It would also include the Call Field reliever from Maplewood up to McNiel.

b. MPO Quarterly Financial Report (1st Quarter – October, November, December)

Mr. Barnett reported that the MPO was a little behind on expected expenditures, but that once the consultant was brought on board for the Traffic Signal Optimization Study, and with the continuing in-house Transit Route Study, that it would start to even out again.

c. Progress report on RFP No. 05-01: Traffic Signal Optimization Study of the Kemp Boulevard and Southwest Parkway Traffic Corridors

Mr. Leiker reported that five proposals had been received and that the selection committee would be meeting soon in order to be able to make a recommendation to TPC on April 20th thus allowing the chosen firm to begin working on May 1st. The goal was to have the study completed by the end of 2005.

d. Wichita Falls Transit System Triennial Review Update

Mr. Barnett discussed the upcoming Triennial Review of the transit system scheduled to take place June 15th and 16th. He stated he would be attending the Triennial Review Workshop in Ft. Worth in order to learn what would be required, in the way of documents and proof, for the on site visit. Mr. Barnett stated that he felt the transit system was in a good position for the review and that FTA would make very few findings, if any.

e. MPO Presentation, Monday, April 4, 2005 at Pleasant Valley City Council Meeting

Mr. Barnett reported that at the request of the City Administrator, Mr. Jeff Watts, he gave a presentation to the Pleasant Valley City Council concerning the purpose and function of the Wichita Falls MPO. Mr. Barnett commented the presentation went well and that he left copies of a briefing notebook entitled: *The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process: Key Issues* (FHWA 2004) with the council members.

f. Other

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Darron Leiker
Interim MPO Director, TAC Chairperson
Interim City Manager