
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC) MEETING WICHITA FALLS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

July 26, 2006

Present:

Lanham Lyne, Mayor, Chairperson	◆ Members
Woodrow (Woody) Gossom, County Judge, Vice-Chairperson	◆
Charles Elmore, City Council Representative	◆
Dennis Wilde, NORTEX Regional Planning Commission	◆
Jeff Watts, City of Pleasant Valley	◆
Larry Tegtmeyer, TxDOT, District Engineer	◆
Linda Ammons, City Council Representative	◆
Scott Taylor, Director of Public Works	◆
Donnie Arbeau, Transportation Planner II	◆ Staff
Lin Barnett, MPO Transportation Planning Director	◆
Zak Carlton	◆
Barbara C. Maley, Federal Highway Administration	◆ Ex-officio
Danny Brown, TxDOT, TP&D Director	◆
Jerrie Sowards, Rep. Farabee's Office	◆
	◆ HNC
John Burrus, Director of Aviation, Traffic and Transportation	◆ Guests
Nora Hodges, NORTEX Regional Planning Commission	◆
Don Sheppard, Lakeside City	◆ Absent

I. Welcome & Introduction

Mayor Lyne called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

II. Review and Approval of the Transportation Policy Committee's (TPC) April 26th and May 15th Meeting Minutes

Mayor Lyne asked for comments concerning both sets of minutes. None were made. Mr. Watts motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Judge Gossom seconded his motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Review and Comment Regarding the Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) July 12th Meeting Minutes - No Action Required

Mayor Lyne asked for comments on the minutes. None were made.

IV. Review, Discussion and Approval of the Texas Urbanized Mobility Plan for 2006

Mr. Barnett outlined, for the committee, the final results of the Texas Urbanized Mobility Plan. He pointed out the number and cost for constructing enough additional lane-miles, by year 2030, to stay below Level-of-Service "F" conditions and to keep the Wichita Falls MPO area at, or below, a Texas Congestion Index (TCI) of 1.05. He also discussed the cost for rehabilitating existing roadway infrastructure built prior to 1990 that would become 40 years old, and older, by year 2030. The cost for rehabilitating/reconstructing this infrastructure was estimated to be \$1.08 billion dollars by the year 2030, with an additional \$22.5 million dollars in right-of-way costs. Estimated total lane-miles to be rehabilitate/reconstructed was 439, which is approximately 73% of the overall 649 year 2000 baseline lane-miles currently in existence. Another \$187 million dollars will need to be spent for bridge rehabilitation and replacement during that time period. All total, including what is listed in the financially-constrained MTP, minus anticipated funding sources; the "gap" for the Wichita Falls Metropolitan Area will be approximately \$1.05 billion dollars. Mr. Barnett also stated that because of the Loop 11 project, there were 8 more additional lane miles to be built for new construction versus the 36 lane-miles identified by the Texas Transportation Institute for a total of 44 additional new lane-miles.

Mr. Tegtmeier commented that an examination of rural roadway infrastructure was necessary because like urban roads by the year 2030 those rural roadways too would be over 40 years old and in need of rehabilitation.

Mayor Lyne asked Mr. Tegtmeier if the need for such studies was to persuade the state legislature to set aside money for rural roadway rehabilitation. Mr. Tegtmeier replied that TXDOT is always looking for new ways to fund roadway rehabilitation. He stated that toll roads would be a possibility to fund the rehabilitation, in lieu of increasing the gas tax.

Mayor Lyne moved for approval of the TUMP, so motioned by Judge Gossom and seconded by Councilor Elmore. The approval was unanimous.

V. Review and Discussion of SAFETEA-LU Compliance Issues

Mr. Barnett explained that SAFETEA-LU was put onto the agenda to familiarize the members with SAFETEA-LU. He stated that there are going to be several steps throughout the next year, such as updating and having SAFETEA-LU in compliance with TIP and MTP by July 1, 2007. Mr. Barnett provided members with an outline of tasks which are required in order to bring Wichita Falls into compliance with SAFETEA-LU. Mr. Barnett stated that the issue of SAFETEA-LU was only being covered on this agenda to make members aware of the law.

Mr. Barnett asked for questions. There were none.

VI. Review, Discussion and Approval of the FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Barnett pointed out that the only mistake on the document was a change that needed to be made by moving \$1,000 from 5.5 to 5.2, which is the in-house study of Beverly Drive/Ave.

H/Kemp Street.

Mr. Barnett asked for questions after explaining that the FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program was the MPO's plan for the upcoming FY. There were no questions.

Mayor Lyne moved that members approve the document with amended page 23. It was motioned by Councilor Ammons, seconded by Judge Gossom and approved unanimously.

VII. Other Business:

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

Mr. Taylor stated that the previous bid he received was too high. He stated that the Maplewood expansion project would be separated into three phases and would be bid upon separately throughout the end of the year. He stated that he has been examining the city's budget and examining costs for future street improvements.

Mr. Brown discussed the improvements that TXDOT has made and plans to make. He then reviewed the improvements with the TPC.

B. MPO Quarterly Financial Report (2nd Quarter FY 2006 – January, February, March)

Mr. Barnett stated that the year to date expenditure is \$65,746, which is 37.98% of the allotment through the year and feels that they will be able to spend the required 75% of the budget. Stated that 125% can be spent in certain categories and any money not spent this year can be tabled till next year.

Mayor Lyne asked for questions from the members. There were none.

C. Transit Study Progress Report

Mr. Barnett stated that he and others involved with the Transit Study attended 13 roundtable meetings during the week of July 17-21. He stated that a phone survey and an on-bus survey were also used to collect data for the Transit study. He stated that the consultant is now processing the information. Mr. Barnett was asked if there was a common theme to the complaints and he responded that the most common complaints were that the routes were too long and pick up times are unreliable. Mr. Barnett told members of the postings that are going to be placed at bus stops to help people more easily navigate bus transfers.

Mr. Burris stated that there is a great need to advertise and make the public aware of the Transit system in Wichita Falls.

D. Other

Mr. Brown talked about members receiving letters from TXDOT listing projects to be nominated and projects that have already been nominated.

VIII. Public Comment on Anything Not on the Agenda

There were no public comments, nor were there any comments from the intern.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:35am.

Honorable Lanham Lyne
Mayor Wichita Falls