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

November 16, 2005

Present:

Lanham Lyne, Mayor, Chairperson	◆ Members
Charles Elmore, City Council Representative	◆
Don Sheppard, Lakeside City	◆
Jeff Watts, City of Pleasant Valley	◆
Larry Tegtmeyer, TxDOT, District Engineer	◆
Linda Ammons, City Council Representative	◆
Scott Taylor, Director of Public Works	◆
Carolyn Askins, TxDOT, Transportation Planning Assistant	◆ Staff
Danny Brown, TxDOT TP&D Director	◆
Donnie Arbeau, Transportation Planner II	◆
John Burrus, Acting Director of Traffic, Transportation and Aviation	◆
Lin Barnett, MPO Director	◆
Monty Brown, TxDOT, Engineering	◆
Barbara Maley, FHWA, Transportation Planning Coordinator	◆ Ex-officio
	◆ HNC
	◆ Guests
Dennis Wilde, NORTEX Regional Planning Commission	◆ Absent
Woodrow (Woody) Gossom, County Judge, Vice-Chairperson	◆

I. Welcome & Introduction

Mayor Lyne called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. Introductions were made around the room.

II. Review, Discussion and Approval of the MPO/City/TxDOT Transportation Project List for FY 2006

Mr. Barnett briefly outlined events leading up to today's meeting and the reasons for it. He then asked the board members how they wished to proceed. The consensus of the board was to examine specific projects and not the entire project list. The board first

examined project ID# 11 – Construction of the Kell West Main Lanes – and determined that it should be moved up from a “Medium” ranking to a “High” ranking on the project list.

The next project the board examined was project ID# 54 – Turtle Creek Road, widening of existing street and drainage improvement – and determined that it too should be moved up from a “Medium” ranking to a project ranking of “High”. Mr. Taylor commented this project was number 3, in priority, on the City of Wichita Falls’ list of projects. He also asked that the “Callfield Reliever – Phase 1 & 2” project names be corrected to say “Maplewood Extension – Phase 1 & 2” in future project lists.

Mr. Taylor stated project ID# 34 – Sunset and Duty Lanes, street improvement – were programmed and financed and that Landon Lane would also be added to the project. (The list was updated accordingly).

The board then discussed project ID# 62 – Puckett Road, extension and widening of existing street. This road actually runs across private property and cannot be considered for improvement until the right-of-way is purchased. This project will remain in the “Low” category of the list.

The board examined project ID# 46 – Taft Blvd., from Hampstead to Kell Freeway, convert to 4-lane street with center turn lane – and determined this project to be non-feasible. (The list was updated to reflect this determination).

Mr. Barnett informed the board that project ID# 47 – Old Iowa Park Road, eastbound, signage for left turn lane onto Central Freeway service road – had already been completed by TxDOT. He then concluded the review of projects by discussing the October 31, 2005 meeting in Austin of the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC). Mr. Barnett stated that the TTC was asking each MPO to develop its own list of projects for inclusion into the state’s Unified Transportation Plan (UTP) early in 2006. He stated the work by the Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee on this list would go a long ways towards fulfilling that goal.

Mayor Lyne then asked for a motion to approve the 2006 Prioritized MPO Area Project List with revisions. Mr. Sheppard motioned to approve. Councilor Ammons seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

III. Review, Discussion and Approval of the Final Report on the June, 2005 Environmental Justice Public Meetings Concerning MPO Roadway Projects

Mr. Barnett asked the board if there were any questions concerning the report. Mr. Taylor asked if City of Wichita Falls projects, which receive no federal funding, fall under the umbrella of Environmental Justice analysis. Mr. Barnett stated his interpretation of Executive Order 12898 was that any agency that receives federal funding must complete an EJ analysis for each project considered; therefore, the City was probably exempt. He went on to say, however, that it would be a “best practice” to continue doing

EJ analyses of City projects. Ms. Maley commented that a governmental entity does not usually become involved in a lawsuit stemming from E.O. 12898 infractions. However, she did go on to say that a governmental entity can be sued for Title VI – Civil Rights violations and the City should consider this during the planning phase of a project. The general consensus of the board was to continue EJ analysis on all projects submitted to the MPO.

Mr. Taylor asked that project ID# EJ-7, in the report, have the title corrected to include Landon Lane and that the last sentence in the second paragraph be corrected to say “Clearly defined financing **has been identified** before the outset of the project to ensure fair and equitable distribution of project costs along with monitoring of the project for effectiveness”.

Mayor Lyne asked for any other changes or comments to the EJ report. There were none. Mayor Lyne then asked for a motion to approve, with revisions, the 2005 MPO Roadway Projects Environmental Justice Analysis Final Report completed in October, 2005. Councilor Ammons motioned to approve. Mr. Watts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment on Anything Not on the Agenda

No comments were received.

V. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Mayor Lanham Lyne, TPC Chairperson