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

February 18, 2005

Present:

Woodrow (Woody) Gossom, County Judge, Vice-Chairperson	◆ Members
Arthur Bea Williams, Mayor Pro Tem	◆
Charles Elmore, City Council Representative	◆
Dennis Wilde, NORTEX Regional Planning Commission	◆
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
Darron Leiker, ACM, Director of Traffic, Transportation & Aviation	◆
Danny Brown, TxDOT, Director of Trans. Planning and Development	◆
Donnie Arbeau, Transportation Planner I	◆
James Kelley, TxDOT, Area Engineer	◆
Lin Barnett, Transportation Planner III	◆
Jim Berzina, City Manager	◆ Ex-officio
	◆ HNC
	◆ Guests
	◆ Absent

I. Welcome & Introduction.

Judge Gossom began the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

II. Review and Approval of the TxDOT District Functional Classification Maps for Submission to Transportation Planning and Programming (TPP) in Austin

Mr. Leiker explained the purpose behind Functional Classification and why it was important to the MPO. He described the procedures and processes used to complete the updates to the maps and why the state needed the updates. Mr. Leiker stated the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) had reviewed all of the work done by the workgroup and was satisfied that it was correct. He discussed the documentation of the traffic generators and how each level of roadway was analyzed for change in function. Mr. Leiker discussed the training that staff received back in November of 2004 for the proper completion of the updates and stated that staff was ready to answer any questions.

Mr. Tegtmeyer explained that the entire district was in the process of updating the Functional Classification map with the help of the surrounding cities and counties. He commented on the fact that as cities grow, urban boundaries change and roads that were once rural become urban in nature, which results in the need for functional reclassification. Mr. Brown commented that staff was very thorough in their efforts to analyze the existing road network. Mr. Leiker discussed the importance of correct functional classification and how it related to federal funding for the roadway network. He also discussed how the traffic generators were identified and that staff would update them on an annual basis.

Judge Gossom asked if the maps dovetail well with all of the other plans that the MPO, County and City use. Mr. Leiker stated that they compared quite well with other planning documents such as the City Thoroughfare Plan. Judge Gossom and the board then discussed the subject of Reilly Road and its need for improvement.

Mr. Sheppard made a motion to approve the maps as presented for forwarding to TxDOT in Austin. Councilor Ammons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

III. Review and Approval of Letter of Support for Kell Interchange and Main Lane Completion

Mr. Tegtmeyer stated the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) had asked each district to select two projects for submission for strategic priorities funding. He commented these projects would become part of a group from which TTC, potentially, would select some of them for funding. These funding projects could not exceed \$10 million dollars. Mr. Tegtmeyer commented that most people feel the two most important projects for Wichita Falls are the Kell Direct Connect and the West Lanes Extension. He stated that TxDOT was in the process of acquiring letters of support for both projects. Mr. Brown suggested that all letters be addressed to Michael Behrens, Executive Director for TxDOT. Mr. Tegtmeyer explained that the Direct Connect project was estimated to cost approximately \$24 million, and that \$17.2 million dollars of Category 3 funding was currently set aside for the project; thus leaving a \$7 million dollar deficit.

Judge Gossom inquired about the Pass-Through Tolling initiative and whether or not it was still a viable option for the MPO. Mr. Tegtmeyer commented that it had evolved since the concept was first presented to the board in 2004. He stated that as the rules were developed it was becoming harder for municipalities to comply with them. As it stands now, the rules would require a local entity to design and construct the project, and possibly maintain or operate it. He stated the local entity would be required to handle all of the contract administration, pay the contractor, and let the schedule before TxDOT would pay back the entity over time. Judge Gossom commented that, even though some of the city departments might be able to handle the complexities of such a project, it would create a horrendous load on them.

The board agreed to contact other civic leaders to garner their support for both projects.

Councilor Elmore motioned to support the letter presented with the change of addressee to, Mr. Michael Behrens, Executive Director of TxDOT. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

IV. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

V. Public Comment on Any Item Not on the Agenda

There were no other comments.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 a.m.