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

July 21, 2004

Present:

Mayor Bill Altman, Chairperson	◆ Members
Dennis Wilde, NORTEX Regional Planning Commission	◆
Don Sheppard, Lakeside City	◆
Larry Tegtmeier, TxDOT, District Engineer	◆
Linda Ammons, City Council Representative	◆
Scott Taylor, Director of Public Works	◆
Carolyn Askins, TxDOT, Transportation Planning	◆ Staff
Danny Brown, TxDOT, Director of Trans. Planning and Development	◆
Darron Leiker, ACM/Dir. Traff., Trans. & Avia., Interim MPO Director	◆
Donnie Arbeau, Transportation Planner I	◆
Lin Barnett, Transportation Planner II	◆
Rhonda Poirot, Senator Estes' Office	◆ Ex-officio
Bill Presson, Wichita County Commissioner	◆ HNC
Keith Hall, Project Leader, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc.	◆ Guests
Tim Kroeker, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc.	◆
Ann Bagley, Wilbur Smith Associates	◆
Kala Krishnan, Wilbur Smith Associates	◆
Jon Möller, Citizen Stakeholder	◆
Jeff Watts, City of Pleasant Valley	◆ Absent
Woodrow (Woody) Gossom, County Judge, Vice-Chairperson	◆

I. Welcome & Introduction.

Mayor Bill Altman, the Chairperson, started the meeting at 8:35 a.m. Introductions were made around the room.

II. Approval of TPC April 21st meeting minutes

No comments were made. Ms. Ammons motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Wilde seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

III. Review and Comment Regarding the TAC's July 7th Meeting Minutes – No Action Required

Mr. Leiker summarized what was discussed at the TAC July 7th meeting. No other comments were made.

IV. Final Draft Presentation by Wilbur Smith Associates of the 2004 Update to the Socioeconomic Data Collection and Forecast Study of FY 2000 – Discussion and Approval Afterwards

Ms. Bagley presented the final draft of the 2004 update to the Socioeconomic Data Collection and Forecast Study with the most recent additions and corrections. Ms. Bagley discussed the various forms of data used in producing the update. She stated the updated data would be provided in GIS and ASCII format to both the MPO and to TxDOT. She discussed the key interviews that Wilbur Smith performed with various individuals and organizations throughout the community. She then discussed the base maps and how the information was organized.

Mr. Leiker stated this document was crucial to the MTP update for 2005 and that a special TPC meeting may need to be called in order to approve and adopt the updated document. Mayor Altman asked staff to schedule a meeting sometime in the next 7 to 10 days for TPC to reconvene and approve the update.

V. Review and Discussion of Information Collected on Pass-Through Financing (Shadow Tolling or Pass-Through Tolling) as a Funding Mechanism for the Kell Interchange

Mr. Leiker outlined the events leading up to the production of the information in the meeting packet. He asked that the Policy Committee consider the information before them and provide guidance as to how staff should proceed. Mr. Leiker gave a brief overview of all the research and data gathered so far. Mr. Tegtmeyer stated that Mr. Brown would be the point person for TxDOT on this issue. Mr. Brown stated that Category III Connectivity funding has now been set aside for the Kell Interchange project. However, the funding will not be available until 2015. Mr. Brown stated the Texas Transportation Commission was very interested in moving on projects of this type, but it would require heavy local participation. He stated the TTC was looking for the local bonding entity to cover the financing and interest costs of the bond and that they wanted to see a business plan that illustrates project cost projections. Mr. Brown stated there would be guidelines available soon and that the proposals would be referred to as "petitions". Mr. Tegtmeyer stated the bonding entity would need to be willing to incur approximately \$10 million in order to finance the Kell Interchange.

Mayor Altman inquired about RMA's and if they are a taxing entity. Mr. Tegtmeyer stated several RMA's are currently in place around the state. He stated RMA's are set up through a county, but they are essentially an agreement between a county and a city. He stated an RMA does not receive its funding through taxing, but rather through the city or county that is a member of an RMA. Mayor Altman commented that SAFB

could not realistically be considered a possibility under potential funding sources due to the current state of overall defense funding. Mr. Tegtmeier stated that he had met with officials at SAFB earlier to discuss their transportation needs and possible opportunities of contribution for areas around the base. He stated that officials at Sheppard had informed him there were no federal funds to use but that a state fund might exist for a purpose similar to this. Mayor Altman commented that the state fund was actually a state guarantee of a local bonding. Mayor Altman also questioned what incentives were available for neighboring cities and counties to contribute to the project. Mr. Brown commented the Cross Plains Rural Transportation Council had stated the completion of the Kell Interchange was their number one priority. The amount of funding that could be generated by the County Bridge Tax was then discussed.

Mr. Taylor commented that it was starting to become clear that only the City of Wichita Falls and Wichita County would be able to contribute to the project and form the necessary bonding entity. Mr. Presson commented the Road and Bridge tax generates approximately \$1.6 million per year and the potential is for twice that amount. He also stated this issue was discussed at the last County Commissioner's Court meeting and that the court stands ready for TxDOT to give a presentation to them to help explain the concept better. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Brown discussed the readiness of the project and what it would entail to initiate it once funding was achieved. Mr. Tegtmeier advocated TxDOT absorbing the cost of construction engineering for the project.

Mayor Altman proposed setting up a subcommittee of TAC and TPC board members to further study this issue. He recommended Mr. Leiker, Mr. Taylor, Judge Gossom, Mr. Brown and Mr. Wilde serve on the subcommittee. Mayor Altman commented that the MPO needed to move quickly on this issue because of competition from other projects around the state. Mr. Tegtmeier stated TxDOT would prepare a presentation once the new guidelines were received from the state. Mayor Altman commented that the presentation should be made to the County Commissioners Court, in order to bring them up to date, before the first subcommittee meeting. He also stated that if the presentation could be made to City Council within the next two council meetings, it would help to gauge public reaction to the funding concept.

VI. Review, Discussion and Approval of the FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Leiker summarized the work and revisions that went into producing the 2005 UPWP. Mayor Altman inquired as to the method used to develop the UPWP. Mr. Leiker explained that staff used the previous year UPWP as a template, but overall, it was a new document with previous work listed as completed and new subtasks added for work to be accomplished during FY 2005.

Mr. Leiker discussed the possible expansion of the bi-annual newsletter, *The Planning Review*, into the city's publication of *Fall's Focus* in order to reach a wider audience for maximum exposure. Mr. Leiker commented this would be listed as an item for discussion at future TAC/TPC meetings.

Mr. Taylor asked for clarification on Subtask 5.1 and what was the intent of the study.

Mr. Leiker stated that staff would actively begin studying the Kemp Boulevard and Southwest Parkway corridors signalization with the goals of improving traffic flow and reducing congestion through optimizing signal light progression and efficiency through each intersection. He stated staff would be requesting permission, in a future meeting, to send out an RFP to find an engineering consultant that could help determine the best use of existing traffic software and equipment. Mr. Brown reasserted the study would be for determining the maximum use of existing traffic equipment architecture and if lane improvements might be needed. Mr. Tegtmeyer stated MPO funds could only be used for planning and not for actual retiming of signal lights or new construction. He also commented on the vegetation at some intersections which precluded the use of permissive turning lanes. Mr. Leiker commented that if the vegetation was not in the line of sight then the protected permissive measures could be eliminated.

Mayor Altman pointed out the inclusion of the underlined sentence for clarification on page 83 of the meeting packet, in the included text of the current Public Involvement Policy, should be removed and added into the draft 2004 PIP. This action would return the PIP to its April 23, 2003 pre-approved form as adopted on that date by TPC.

Mr. Wilde motioned to adopt the 2005 UPWP with the omission of the sentence on page 83 of the meeting packet. Mr. Sheppard seconded the motion, which received unanimous approval.

VII. Annual Review and Discussion of the MPO's Public Involvement Policy and Subsequent 45-day Public Comment Period Prior to TPC Approval

Mr. Leiker summarized the changes and additions to the draft 2004 Public Involvement Policy stating that staff had included additional wording received from FHWA to help better define the benefits of Environmental Justice. He stated once the document had gone through the 45-day public comment period it would be presented to TPC for approval at the regularly scheduled October meeting.

Mayor Altman asked for a motion to insert the deleted sentence from the previous agenda item into its proper place on page 94 of the meeting packet. Mr. Sheppard made the motion to approve. Mr. Wilde seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Altman then asked for a motion to adopt the PIP as amended and to provide it for public comment and review. Mr. Sheppard made the motion to approve. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The draft 2004 PIP would become available for public comment on the MPO/Transportation web page and a copy would be available at the Transportation Planning Division office.

VIII. Progress Report on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update for 2005-2030

Mr. Leiker briefly discussed events thus far on the MTP update and then asked Mr. Hall to give a progress report on where LAN currently was with the MTP update. Mr. Hall stated they were finished with the MTP review task and that they were waiting for the

Wilbur Smith update to the Socioeconomic Data Collection and Forecast. He related what would be discussed at the bicycle workshop for the public the following day and what would be included in the bicycle plan.

There was discussion of posting a Special Called Meeting of the TPC before the July 27th MPO workshop in order to gain TPC approval and adoption of the Wilbur Smith update. No meeting was scheduled due to the fact there were other revisions that had to be made to the update. A meeting to approve would be arranged at a later date.

IX. Other Business:

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

City and TxDOT Staff

City Report – Mr. Taylor related information on the CDBG street rehabilitation recently awarded by City Council in the amount of \$222,555.90. He stated the City was nearing completion of the Phase I Faith Village drainage project. He commented the next phase of construction should begin next spring in 2005. Mr. Taylor stated the annual street rehabilitation project plans would soon be going out for bid. There would be approximately \$1.3 million dollars available for the project.

TxDOT Report – Mr. Brown discussed the Lake Road/Kemp extension and that it was scheduled to complete on August 23rd. He stated the Scott Street Bridge should be ready in time for the Hotter'n Hell Bicycle race. Mr. Brown also stated plans for landscaping on Maureen Street and Jacksboro Highway had been submitted.

Mayor Altman inquired if there were plans to clean up the bridge area at Maureen Street and I-44. Mr. Brown and Mr. Leiker stated they would arrange a meeting with Councilor Ester, and any other interested councilors, to discuss the plans and maintenance issues for this area. Mr. Leiker stated there were plans to hardscape this area. Mr. Tegtmeyer stated the letting schedule was for September and that actual work would begin around November or December.

b. Review and Discussion of the Proposed MPO Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2005

Mr. Leiker stated the included calendar was for informational purposes. There were no other comments.

c. MPO Quarterly Financial Report (2nd Quarter – Jan, Feb, Mar)

Mr. Barnett summarized 2nd quarter expenses and where the MPO currently was in its overall spending for the year stating that best estimates put the MPO firmly on track to spend the minimum 75% of funds, but not to exceed 100% in any of the five main UPWP Tasks.

d. Discussion of Ex-Officio Position on TPC for SAFB Representative

Mr. Brown discussed the amount of traffic that SAFB generates and that it

would be prudent to ask Sheppard if they would like to have someone to sit either on TAC or TPC in an Ex-Officio position. Mr. Tegtmeyer commented the better place for the base's presence would be on the Technical Advisory Committee rather than TPC. The board agreed it would be appropriate to approach the base with this item. Mayor Altman stated he would bring this up for discussion at a future meeting with the base commander.

e. Public Comment on Anything Not on the Agenda

Mr. Möller discussed the missing ethnicity and over 65 demographics from the Wilbur Smith report and that some of the demographic numbers appeared to be skewed. Mr. Barnett commented that Ms. Bagley, with Wilbur Smith, had informed TAC earlier that this was not part of the contract. Mr. Leiker stated staff would investigate the discrepancies of the report.

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Mayor Bill Altman, TPC Chairperson