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

July 27, 2005

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## Present:

Lanham Lyne, Mayor, Chairperson	◆ Members
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	◆
Woodrow (Woody) Gossom, County Judge, Vice-Chairperson	◆
Carolyn Askins, TxDOT, Transportation Planning Assistant	◆ Staff
Danny Brown, TxDOT TP&D Director	◆
Darron Leiker, Interim City Manager	◆
Dave Clark, Director of Community Development	◆
Donnie Arbeau, Transportation Planner I	◆
James Kelley, TxDOT, Area Engineer	◆
Lin Barnett, Transportation Planner III	◆
Mark Beauchamp, City Traffic Superintendent	◆
	◆ Ex-officio
	◆ HNC
Jon Möller, Citizen	◆ Guests
	◆ Absent

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## I. Welcome & Introduction.

Mayor Lyne called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Introductions were made around the room.

## **II. Approval of the April 20th and June 6th TPC Meeting Minutes**

Judge Gossom motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Councilor Elmore seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously. No other comments were received.

## **III. Review and Comment Regarding TAC's July 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes - No Action Required**

No comments were received.

## **IV. Review, Discussion and Approval of the FY 2006 Unified Planning Work Program for Submission to TxDOT, Austin (TPP) by August 1, 2005**

Mr. Leiker outlined events leading up to the current draft of the FY 2006 UPWP reminding everyone they had already seen the majority of it back at the April TPC meeting. He stated the final draft was being presented at today's meeting for the board's approval. It would then be forwarded on to TxDOT, Austin (TPP) to meet the August 1, 2005 deadline for submission. Mr. Leiker asked Mr. Barnett to go over the changes to the document since the last TPC meeting.

Mr. Barnett began by informing everyone about the request from TxDOT, Austin (TPP) to include two additional subtasks in Task 1 – Administration/Management and Task 2 – Data Development and Maintenance. The additional subtasks pertained to Title VI, Civil Rights evaluations of existing public involvement policies and procedures on an annual basis and the updating of demographic data as it relates to Title VI requirements for minority and low-income populations. The aforementioned subtasks were Subtask 1.8 and Subtask 2.6.

Mr. Barnett then discussed Subtask 3.6 located in Task 3 – Short Range Planning. This subtask was incorporated into the document at the request of TxDOT's Public Transportation Division to accommodate the mandate recently set forth under H.B. 3588. This subtask would provide assistance to the multi-county regional planning project (to be discussed later this year) that would develop transit service areas and plans in response to H.B. 3588. The MPO would provide planning assistance, as needed, including the sharing of data, map preparation, attending or sponsoring meetings, and providing general transportation planning expertise to the effort.

Mr. Barnett discussed the addition of a fourth subtask located in Task 4 – Metropolitan Transportation Plan recommended by the TAC committee at their July 13, 2005 meeting. This subtask (Subtask 4.3) directs TAC to formulate a process for prioritizing short-range and long-range transportation projects in order to match limited City and TxDOT funding with highest priority transportation projects within the MPO boundaries.

Mayor Lyne asked for comments or changes to the document. There were none made.

He then asked for a motion to approve the document for submission to TxDOT, Austin (TPP) as presented. Mr. Sheppard made the motion to approve; Judge Gossom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### **V. Preliminary Report on June Environmental Justice Short-Range Transportation Project Public Meetings**

Mr. Leiker discussed the report summarization included in the packets and the amount of participation the MPO enjoyed when the public meetings were conducted back in June, 2005. He commented the amount of participation, at the June meetings, far exceeded the amount of participation seen concerning the 2005-2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan update during all of 2004.

A preliminary statistical report on the data collected from the transit system questionnaire was given out to everyone present. Mr. Barnett commented the draft report was completed after meeting packets were mailed out the week before, but that staff felt it was important that the board see this information. He also stated that the final report on the June meetings would be presented at the October TAC/TPC meetings.

Mr. Leiker stated that staff hoped for this to become an annual event because of the amount of good information that could be acquired. He also commented on the lessons learned and how the format would change somewhat for next year's meetings.

Mr. Sheppard asked how staff planned to gather more information on the Sheppard Express transit route. Mr. Arbeau stated that staff would do some surveys at Sikes Senter Mall bus transfer point, and possibly at SAFB as well.

Mr. Brown commented that staff had done an excellent job in promoting and executing the meetings. Councilor Elmore agreed stating he had received very favorable responses from the people that attended the meetings.

*(Because of a scheduling conflict, Judge Gossom, requested the board to continue on to Item d. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Zone #2 Informational Hand-outs under Other Business).*

#### **Other Business – Item d. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Zone #2 Informational Hand-outs**

Mr. Leiker discussed the proposed Tax Increment Financing Zone #2 district in the Callfield/Lawrence Road area. He stated that Judge Gossom wanted this information brought before the TPC because, ultimately, transportation issues would become involved. There were two reports given out: one on the financial plan and one on the project plan. Mr. Leiker stated the TIF #2 had not been adopted by City Council yet, but that it had gone before County Commission and been endorsed by them.

Mr. Clark gave the board a brief summary of what the new TIF district would involve.

The funds generated by this district would help fund the building of the Maplewood extension across from Kemp to Lawrence and on to McNiel. It would also help with the Wenona extension. Judge Gossom stated this would be a very positive, proactive step for Wichita Falls. Mr. Moller brought up several questions concerning the study of this area done a few years earlier. Mr. Clark and Mr. Taylor explained why TxDOT did not consider the roads, in this area, would qualify for state funding. They also explained that the study was paid for by the MPO, that the roads would be built by the City and not by TxDOT, and that the study itself was not an engineering study, but rather a traffic study to determine the viability of the proposed changes. Mr. Clark explained there were no engineering specifications included in the study.

Discussion then turned to expansion of the TIF district and the challenges that it would involve.

## **VI. Other Business:**

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

**TxDOT Report:** Mr. Kelley gave everyone a map with a project list and discussed current construction projects within the MPO boundaries. There were several projects on the Current Construction Projects list, which are as follows:

- IH 44, US 287: installation of traffic management center and CCTV. This involves installing a Dynamic Message Sign and weather sensors, most of which has been installed, but there have been some minor communication glitches between the cameras and the main TxDOT office.
- US 82: upgrade flashing beacon, safety lighting and illumination
- IH 44: upgrade flashing beacon, safety lighting and illumination
- IH 44, LP 473: channelization and landscaping. This involves Old Jacksboro Highway and Maureen Street and is now complete other than warranty work.
- SH 240: Novachip overlay. This will actually be an overlay and should start within the next two weeks.
- LP 473: Novachip overlay
- Cypress Avenue Bridge: replace bridge and approaches. TxDOT hopes to have this done in time for the beginning of school in mid-August.
- FM 369: widen existing road and shoulders. This is Phase II of the FM 369 project and is 50% complete.
- MSU/Sikes Lake: Sikes Lake pedestrian and bicycle trail Phase II. This project is complete for all intents and purposes.
- Kell Interchange Direct Connect: The letting for this project is scheduled for August 9, 2005. Construction should begin in early November, 2005 and continue for 18 to 24 months.

**City Report:** Mr. Taylor gave everyone a map with a project list and discussed current construction projects. He stated that most of the projects were not

transportation related, but will have a significant impact on transportation.

- Lake Kemp Raw Water Line: A new water line being laid along Barnett Road and Johnson Road will impede traffic temporarily on these two roads.
- Faith Village Phase 2 and 3: This project should go out for bid sometime in September or October. The initial impact will not be that great, but as the project progresses to the west it will impact Kemp Street because of the installation of some box culverts, which will cause significant detours.
- 2005 Street Rehabilitation Program: This program will take place across the entire City of Wichita Falls. A major part of this will be the recycle and overlay of Midwestern Parkway from Old Jacksboro Highway to Maplewood.
- Wichita Falls Business Park: construction of the roads has begun and completion is anticipated sometime next spring.
- Railroad Bridge at Bridge Street: this bridge will be replaced beginning in the spring of 2006 by BNSF Railroad with no cost to the City of Wichita Falls.

**b. MPO Quarterly Financial Report (2nd Quarter – January, February, March)**

Mr. Leiker reported that MPO expenses were tracking well and that all items were within budget. There were no questions and no other comments.

**c. Progress Report on the Traffic Signal Optimization Study of the Kemp Boulevard and Southwest Parkway Traffic Corridors**

Mr. Beauchamp outlined recent progress on the Kemp and Southwest Parkway traffic signal optimization study. He commented that the consultant has completed all of the traffic models and they are now ready for review during early August. If the models meet all of the specifications then they will be implemented that same week to begin analyzing traffic patterns. Later, after school begins, the models will be calibrated using normal traffic patterns in order to optimize the intersections. Scheduled completion of the study is for end of September.

Mr. Leiker pointed out also that a letter of cost savings was received from the consultant highlighting a cost savings of \$9,600 because of previous work done for the City and was being used in the study.

Mr. Moller asked if the study would accommodate the additional intersection created by the Maplewood extension. Mr. Beauchamp stated that because of how the specifications were written into the contract, ownership of the models would be retained by the Traffic Department. The reason this was done was so that the models could be applied to any new future intersections and calibrated accordingly.

**e. Other**

Mr. Brown informed the board that both TAC and TPC would be receiving letters from MPO staff asking for roadway project nominations, within the MPO boundary, to be turned in by the end of September for submittal to TxDOT by October 1, 2005. A list of current projects would be included with the letter as a reference. TAC will prioritize the majority of the final list.

**Public Comment on Any Item Not on the Agenda**

Mr. Leiker asked for public comment on anything not on the agenda. Mr. Clark asked if there was any funding available for signage of the bicycle trails. Mr. Beauchamp stated that his department was working with Transportation Planning to design and implement something in time for the Hotter’N’Hell Bicycle Race.

There was general discussion about putting out signs of support for SAFB for the next BRAC commission meeting scheduled for Wichita Falls.

There were no other public comments.

**VII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

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Mayor Lanham Lyne, TPC Chairperson