

**Minutes**  
**Of the**  
**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**March 4, 2008**

The meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization was held at 916 Main St, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium, at 2:00 PM on March 4, 2008.

Required notices were given to the members of the Committee and the public. The following Transportation Advisory Committee members were present:

Jere Hart, City of Lubbock  
Bill McCay, Lubbock County  
Steve Warren, TxDOT – Lubbock  
Randy Henson, City Of Lubbock  
Frankie Pittman, City of Wolfforth  
Melinda Harvey, Citibus  
Nick Olenik, Lubbock County  
Steve Shatley, Texas Department of Public Safety  
Marsha Reed, City of Lubbock

Visitors/Staff: David Jones, Lubbock MPO  
Darrell Westmoreland, Lubbock MPO  
Tera Davis, Lubbock MPO  
Jerry Cash, TxDOT – Lubbock  
Lynn Castle, TxDOT - Lubbock

**Call to Order.**

Mr. Hart called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**The Committee moved to the next item.**

**Acknowledgement of Quorum by Chairman.**

Mr. Hart acknowledged a quorum of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).

**Approval of the December 4, 2007 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee.**

Mr. Hart asked for any corrections to the December 4, 2007 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee. No corrections were made.

***Randy Henson made motion to approve the December 4, 2007 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee. Steve Shatley and Steve Warren seconded and the motion passed unanimously.***

**The Committee moved to the next item.**

**Discussion of the use of Unified Planning Work Program funds for a Comprehensive Speed Limit Study.**

**Discussion of the use of Unified Planning Work Program funds for an update to the ITS Regional Architecture Plan.**

## **Discussion of the use of Unified Planning Work Program funds for Permanent Traffic Count Stations.**

Mr. Hart stated that he would like to address all three of the Agenda Items regarding the use of Unified Planning Work Program funds as one item.

Mr. Hart stated that he felt there was a consensus at the December 4, 2007 meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee that the first priority of utilizing any available UPWP funds was towards the Permanent Traffic Count Stations. He stated that he has been preoccupied with current ITS projects. Mr. Hart said that at this point he is wondering if we know how much money the LMPO will have for planning in the next fiscal year. Mr. Warren stated that he assumes that it would be the same as what we have had in the past as there are no recissions that he is aware of. Mr. Cash said that he has not received a report of the rollover of last year's funds at this time. Mr. Hart said that in terms of all three of these items, which would all be beneficial to the community as a whole, he was looking for a consensus of priorities.

Mr. Hart said that as far as Item 6, the Permanent Traffic Count Stations, they have looked at several alternatives for concrete intersections and asphalt intersections and they are fairly similar in terms of cutting loops into the pavement. We said they are looking at approximately \$20,000 to \$21,500 for this cost. He said if you use video equipment but do not have to add any poles it would be approximately \$23,000. If new poles were required it would add \$10,000 to the cost of each station bringing it to about \$36,000. He said you could also do the same thing with "wavetronics radar" similar to what is put on the freeways for about \$36,000.

Mr. Hart said this would include all four approaches to the intersection. He stated that he was envisioning this in the terms of giving us continuous growth for planning purposes and would recommend we put them at 82<sup>nd</sup> and Milwaukee for a clear direction of growth. He said that something at 60<sup>th</sup> and Slide would give a level of congestion and how it varies throughout the year. He stated that 98<sup>th</sup> and Quaker or 98<sup>th</sup> and Indiana would show growth in those directions. He said depending on what he would see is if we could do one to three of these stations every year over a period of three or four years several could be put in place. He said they record traffic volumes hourly, 365 days a year and it would download the data to the computers on a daily basis so that it would be known every day if there was a problem.

Mr. Henson asked if cutting the intersections would add additional maintenance issues. Mr. Hart said it would not. Mr. McCay verified they would be cut into the intersections and not like hoses. Mr. Hart said they were more accurate than the hoses. He stated one advantage to the video equipment would be that, with the exception of the foundation of the poles, could be taken down and moved to another location. Mr. McCay said that he wondered about the degree of the video. Mr. Hart stated it was in pixels and would count and classify the speed, volume and what kind of vehicle. Mr. McCay wondered if it would identify occupants of the vehicle. Mr. Hart stated it would be about forty-five feet high and doesn't record. It is continuously gathering data and it is not sending it anywhere but to the computer. The computer card in the intersection figures out the changes in the pixels and counts the vehicles which goes into a data file. The data file is downloaded on a daily basis.

Mr. Hart said the point is right now they go out and take a count every three years and the counts have not even been adjusted as they do not have a good adjustment factor as they do not have any count stations on arterial streets. Mr. McCay asked how far TxDOT goes. Mr. Warren said they do a count every year of on system streets. Mr. Hart said saturation counts are not sufficient to get you a correction to what the annual traffic really is.

Mr. McCay asked if the same equipment could be used. Mr. Hart said that they would use signal cabinets to pull back to the existing facilities. He said the thought was to get a Transportation planning tool to use as growth occurs. He said the data would be used to pull information for reports. He stated that the amount of funding available would determine the number that could be

built in a year. He said that he would look for a motion to begin putting together the budget for the Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2008-2009. Mr. Westmoreland asked if there would be a problem of using planning funds on hardware. Mr. Cash said that he would have to check.

Mr. Hart said if it were not possible to use the planning funds for this that he felt that Item 5, ITS Regional Architecture Plan, would be the next priority. He reminded the Transportation Advisory Committee that four years ago the Lubbock MPO, the City Of Lubbock and Lubbock County adopted their Regional ITS Architecture Plan. Part of the plan was a direction that the City of Lubbock's Traffic Engineering Department would update the plan. Mr. Hart suggested that the TAC might want to table these items for later discussion.

Ms. Reed wondered when it would be known how much planning funds would be available. Mr. Warren said probably in the next few months, around April or May.

***Marsha Reed made motion to proceed with the Permanent Traffic Count Stations, if allowable, as first priority of the receipt of any unobligated planning funds for FY 2009. Bill McCay seconded and the motion passed unanimously.***

**The Committee moved to the next item.**

**Discussion and action for revision to the FY 2008 – 2011 Transportation Improvement Program to ensure compliancy.**

Mr. Warren explained that the FY 2008 – 2011 Transportation Improvement Program was approved on April 24, 2007 by the Transportation Policy Committee. It was thought that the TIP was approved by FHWA as well. He has recently found out that the TIP was not approved by FHWA to be SAFETEA-LU compliant due to issues with the Year Of Expenditure and the Total Project Cost. He stated that this is not a huge item but is a paperwork nightmare. Mr. Warren explained that due to the fact that the TIP must be in the new format a revision must be made. If the TIP is not revised into the new format there is a danger of the TIP being removed from the STIP.

Mr. Warren stated that TxDOT is working on the project format and their DCIS system kicked out projects. Mr. Warren explained that the new format figures the right of way and preliminary engineering percentages. He was not sure what the "other" column was that was coming out on the plan but Mr. Cash was in the process of getting that answered.

Mr. Warren stated that we are not changing the Transportation Improvement Program. He said that changes are affecting all twenty five Districts and that the format changes are necessary to satisfy FHWA. He stated that the Transportation Policy Committee would be meeting on Friday, March 7, 2008 regarding approval of the Administrative Revisions to the current FY 2008 – 2011 TIP. He said that Mr. Cash is working to get all the changes made at this time. Mr. Warren again stressed that nothing is being added or taken out of the current TIP and these are merely format changes.

Mr. Warren stated that all of the projects in this fiscal year are already underway and if the TIP is not approved by FHWA it would not affect the Lubbock area at this time. He stated that we would do what we could to get it done by Friday. He said that Lynn Castle and Melinda Harvey have been coordinating on the transit side of this plan.

Ms. Reed asked when the TIP would next be revised. Mr. Warren stated it would be a year from now. She inquired about the Northwest Passage changes and Mr. Warren stated the TIP would be amended later to include these projects once an agreement between the City of Lubbock and TxDOT was reached. He stated that revision would require a public comment period and would not be an Administrative Revision. Mr. Warren stated that the TIP is financially constrained.

***Bill McCay made motion to approve the Administrative Revisions to the Transportation Improvement Program, exclusive of the column shown as "other", to the Transportation Policy Committee. Melinda Harvey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.***

The Committee moved to the next item.

**Discussion and action for revision of the Congestion Management Process plan.**

Mr. Westmoreland explained that the Congestion Management System Plan was approved prior to the Federal Certification Review on February 10, 2004. After the Review the LMPO revised the Plan on April 12, 2005. With the SAFETEA-LU Transportation Bill the LMPO is revising the Plan to ensure compliancy. The name of the Plan was changed to the Congestion Management Process. He stated that language has also been added with the Bicycle update on Page ten and Title VI language was also added. He is seeking approval to submit this Plan to the TPC for approval prior to the next Federal Certification Review in June of this year.

***Bill McCay made motion to approve the revisions to the Congestion Management Process Plan to the Transportation Policy Committee. Randy Henson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.***

The Committee moved to the next item.

**Director's Report**

- A. TxDOT
- B. Cities and County
- C. Citibus
- D. Director's

**TxDOT**

Mr. Warren stated he wanted to apologize again for the confusion with the Transportation Improvement Program and that Mr. Cash would continue to work to get the revisions done by Friday.

**Cities and Counties**

City of Wolfforth

No report

City of Lubbock

Ms. Reed stated that the Safe Routes to School Application and Contract were signed on February 14, 2008 by the Council. Ms. Reed also said the Pavement Management had its kickoff with the consultant.

Lubbock County

Mr. Olenik wanted to thank TxDOT for the materials from the Spur 327 Project. He stated that the materials were greatly appreciated. He said that Bryan Wilson had really helped them and they were able to use the stockpiled materials in the rural area to widen the roads. Mr. McCay said thank you to TxDOT.

**Citibus**

Ms. Harvey talked about the two new routes that Citibus had added in the past year. She said that the cost is not justified to keep the routes going so their Board has approved them to go out for public hearings on March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and if recommended, the routes would cease on April 5, 2008.

Ms. Harvey also stated that the funded that were earmarked for the parking lot expansion of Citibus were moving along. She said that part of this expansion would include the closing of 8<sup>th</sup> Street between Buddy Holly and Texas Avenue. She said that Hugo Reed was working with the Lubbock City Council on this.

### **Director's Report**

Mr. Jones stated that Staff had already announced the upcoming Federal Certification Review in June. He said that Staff is already getting prepared for the Review.

Mr. Jones said that Ms. Lann had sent him the minute order of the MAB expansion map. He stated that it was approved in February.

Mr. Jones stated that he was excited to be a part of the Lubbock MPO and was looking forward to the challenges. He wanted to remind everyone to go vote and thanked the elected officials for their service to the community and to the LMPO Boards. Mr. McCay welcomed Mr. Jones to the LMPO and stated he was glad to have him.

### **Meeting Adjourned.**

***Mr. Hart adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m.***