

Minutes
Of the
Transportation Advisory Committee
Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization
May 6, 2008

The meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization was held 1625 13th Street, Room 103, at 10:25 AM on May 6, 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
Ysidro Gutierrez, Lubbock County
Steve Warren, TxDOT – Lubbock
Randy Henson, City Of Lubbock
Frankie Pittman, City of Wolfforth
Melinda Harvey, Citibus
Nick Olenik, Lubbock County
Marsha Reed, City of Lubbock
Larry Hertel, City of Lubbock
Jerry Cash, TxDOT - Lubbock

Visitors/Staff: David Jones, Lubbock MPO
Darrell Westmoreland, Lubbock MPO
Tera Davis, Lubbock MPO
Mitch Satterwhite, City of Lubbock
Mark Heinrich, Lubbock County
Durwood Mayfield, Texas Bicycle Coalition
Bryan Wilson, TxDOT – Lubbock
Jonathan Ziegner, Parkhill, Smith & Cooper

Call to Order.

Mr. Hart called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Acknowledgement of Quorum by Chairman.

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

Concurrence of the Motion approved May 6, 2008 by the Transportation Policy Committee regarding Funding Changes to the FY 2009 – 2019 Unified Transportation Plan (UTP).

Ms. Reed said that in light of TxDOT's funding situation we should allocate what is available and get it spent as quick as we can. Mr. Hart stated that the City of Lubbock has already funded a larger part of the entire project. Mr. Hart stated if there is no further discussion he would look for a motion to approve the funding as presented this morning in the Transportation Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Jones asked if this vote might be in violation of the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Hart stated that it is his understanding that the Transportation Advisory Committee does not have to follow the Open Meetings Act.

Jerry Cash made motion to approve concurrence of the Motion approved at the May 6, 2008 meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee regarding funding changes to the 2009 – 2019 Unified Transportation Plan (UTP). Nick Olenik seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the March 4, 2008 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Mr. Hart asked for any corrections to the March 4, 2008 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee. No corrections were made.

Marsha Reed made motion to approve the March 4, 2008 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee. Melinda Harvey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Discuss the status of the Outer Loop study and get a consensus of the Transportation Advisory Committee regarding future actions.

Mr. Henson said that he asked for this item to be placed on the agenda. He stated that in the midst of the funding issues that Mr. Warren brought to the Transportation Advisory Committee at the last meeting, he felt it important to discuss the Outer Loop Study. He said the Outer Loop is his passion and he would love to see the feasibility study conducted that will determine if there is a need for the Outer Loop. He said more planning should be put into the Outer Loop than was put into the current Loop.

He stated that at the time TxDOT built the current Loop, it had to be illustrated as a state designated highway in the transportation plan to get federal funding. He stated they picked four farm to market roads around the community and designated those for the Loop route. He stated that we have sat on our laurels as development continues, especially along 1585 and made the acquisition of that property no longer feasible. He said he is reminded of when he was first married in San Antonio and about twenty miles outside of town there was a sign that said future outer loop. He said the sign had bullet holes in it but if you go down there today that Loop is built.

Mr. Henson said he is advocating that the TAC ask Mr. Jones to send a letter to the Transportation Policy Committee to keep this project going. He said that all we are hearing about funding and tolling sounds as though there will never be a freeway built again. He said he has heard two District Engineers say that we would never have IH 27 through Lubbock. He has heard the same about the Marsha Sharp freeway going through Lubbock.

He feels the feasibility study has gotten lost in the shuffle. He understands the funding crisis. He feels the TAC needs to illustrate their technical opinion that the outer loop study needs to be pursued to allow the next generation of planners to start getting that right-of-way as those areas develop. He feels FM 179 would be a great west leg because of the development in the area and the need for high-speed access. He said he feels it is far enough outside the current loop to meet state criteria. His opinion is that a new freeway will put Lubbock at the forefront of any City our size and probably every City our size and above in the State of Texas with regard to mobility. We are ahead of the curve.

Mr. Hart wondered if it might be feasible, with the freeway winding down, of taking on this project and sharing it between the City, County, and State and moving forward and getting it done. Mr. Cash said that he understands the concerns. His concerns are the same. He would like to have a footprint out there. He explained that the project was moving forward until the funding cuts. He said the consultant budget was slashed and the study put on hold.

Mr. Henson asked why TxDOT wants 120 feet right of way when the City Of Lubbock is getting 110 feet. TxDOT has always done 120 feet as they use that area for a shared bicycle lane. Mr. Henson asked if they couldn't move the profile out including bicycle lanes. Mr. Hart said the right of way is tight and 110 gives eleven feet behind the curb and the 120 feet gives them fifteen feet on each side. Mr. Henson wondered about the extra cost and said he couldn't help but see that as a frivolous expense at this point. Mr. Cash said that the new design manual calls for fifteen feet but they prefer twenty with utilities. Ms. Reed said TxDOT doesn't allow any utilities under the pavement.

Mr. Cash said there could be options. The consultant is under contract. Mr. Olenik wondered if the contract could be renegotiated. Mr. Cash said the contract is already in effect but that it might not stay in effect if it could not be completed by the contract end date. Mr. Henson said he is proposing that Mr. Jones send a letter from the TAC to the TPC that we not forget with regard to the concept and have a recap by Mr. Cash on the status.

Mr. Henson said that there would be a large contingent that would say an outer loop is stupid. He stated that all of the I-35 cities' outer loops are already congested. Mr. Henson stated he felt we should stay with it because if someone hadn't stayed on the current loop it wouldn't exist. Mr. Gutierrez said he understands the only thing holding this up is the funding for the feasibility study so shouldn't we be looking for someone to allocate money for the funding. Mr. Cash said that the study is 1.3 million with another 500,000 for the route study.

Mr. Gutierrez said he thinks the TAC should recommend that the TPC allocate money for the study. He agrees that it should go forward. Mr. Hart said there is no source of funding for the next three years. Mr. Henson said he would just like to keep it fresh on their minds. Mr. Cash said that there would be a new transportation bill in that time period. He said his recommendation to the TAC is go ahead and recommend that we lock the funding even though it is not there.

Mr. Hart said, as he understands it we would like to have a presentation made to the TPC on the current status of the outer loop and potential funding sources to expedite it going forward. Mr. Gutierrez said he thinks we need to get it out of a suspended state. Mr. Hart asked TxDOT to come back to the TPC with any potential sources of funding. Mr. Gutierrez said he gets a sense there is wide spread public support based on the people he has talked with. He said they see there is a need for an Outer Loop even though there would be naysayers as there always are. Mr. Hart said the meeting needed to move forward in the interest of time.

Ms. Reed said she would make a motion but would add to that we need to look at the contract and see if it can be scaled back to get the things that are critical to a route study for the outer loop and hold or delete the rest, which could be looked at later. Mr. Cash said that he feels the feasibility study is probably a waste of time because the consultant always states there is a need.

Ms. Reed made motion to have a presentation given to the Transportation Policy Committee regarding the current status of the Outer Loop and have TxDOT explain the potential sources of funding to have the study go forward, as well as to examine the contract to meet all of the critical needs for the route study, removing the noncritical items to reduce cost. Nick Olenik seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of possible updates to the Master Thoroughfare Plan.

Ms. Reed said that she had hoped Mr. Warren would be here as they had talked a little bit about this early on and Mr. Henson touched on some internal issues with the Master Thoroughfare Plan in conjunction with the sign ordinance. Ms. Reed said it really plays into the same issue the TAC was talking about on the previous item with regard to necessary right-of-way for some of the State highways that are in the City Of Lubbock because it has a definite impact on the City Of Lubbock. Ms. Reed said they are responsible for ten percent of the right-of-way costs associated with projects and what brought this to light is the four million dollars projected for right-of-way for

just South Slide and she wondered if that was reasonable. She said she just wanted to have some open discussion as to whether or not the City might want to work with the State to try and come up a standard cross sections that could put on the Master Thoroughfare Plan so when plats come through Mr. Henson has some way to acquire that right-of-way for nothing. Ms. Reed said that if Mr. Hertel brings it up to the developers, they will pitch a fit, and she just wanted to bring it up for discussion to see if anyone else had a thought about it. She also wondered about some discussion of whether the 120 feet is necessary or not and where that comes. She said that, from the City's perspective, if they are going to be responsible for getting a portion of it then they need to have a way to get it for nothing as part of the platting process.

Mr. Henson said he is aware that developers will resist. He said the City let them out of paying for anything last year except for curb and gutter and gave away a million dollars a mile as a result. His question is will it need to be just on system roads or would the City need to go to 120 feet on cross sections for all roads. Mr. Cash stated they do not put utilities under the roadway. Mr. Henson said that sometimes it is preferred for utilities to be under the pavement so no one gets into them. He wondered if the City needed to increase the requirement on state system roads to save TxDOT's five feet purchase or if it would be through the cross section all together. Mr. Cash said they use the extra five feet in conjunction with bicycle routes.

Mr. Hart stated that in the interest of time, this item would be brought back up as an action item at a future TAC meeting.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Director's Report

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

TxDOT

No report.

Cities and Counties

City of Wolfforth

No report

City of Lubbock

Mr. Kevin Lair said that he was asked to get the TAC up to speed on the Pavement Evaluation System. He said that back in July of 2007 the MPO approved \$80,000 as part of the Unified Planning Work Program. The idea was to look at re-evaluating the streets and alleys.

He said in January of this year the contract was approved and a kickoff meeting was held on February 26, 2008. He said in March and April the contractor gathered information and on April 2, 2008 training was held for the local people hired to do the evaluations. He said at this time the \$80,000 has been spent on the evaluations for the system.

Lubbock County

No report.

Citibus

No report.

Director's Report

Mr. Jones stated that he appreciates everyone changing their schedules to attend the TPC meeting, as well as the TAC, and apologized that the meeting had to be cut short.

Meeting Adjourned.

Mr. Hart adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.