

Minutes
Of the
Transportation Advisory Committee
Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization
February 3, 2009

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 October 7, 2008.

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

Bill McCay, Lubbock County
Mark Heinrich, Lubbock County
Marsha Reed, City of Lubbock
Steve Warren, TxDOT – Lubbock
Sharmon Owens, City of Lubbock
Steve Shatley, Texas Department of Public Safety
Larry Hertel, City of Lubbock
Doug Hutcheson, City of Wolfforth
Melinda Harvey, Citibus
Nick Olenik, Lubbock County

Visitors/Staff: David Jones, Lubbock MPO
Tera Davis, Lubbock MPO
Darrell Westmoreland, Lubbock MPO
Brian Baker, Citizens Traffic Commission

Call to Order.

Mr. McCay called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Acknowledgement of Quorum by Chairman.

Mr. McCay acknowledged a quorum of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). Mr. McCay welcomed Mark Heinrich as the newest representative to the Transportation Advisory Committee. Mr. Heinrich is a Lubbock County Commissioner.

Approval of the October 7, 2008 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Mr. McCay asked for any corrections to the October 7, 2008 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee. No corrections were made.

Steve Warren made motion to approve the October 7, 2008 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee. Melinda Harvey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Discussion of the use of Unified Planning Work Program funds for the upcoming FY 2010 budget process. Past ideas include streaming video, fiber connections for real time video, additional permanent traffic count stations.

Mr. Jones stated that the LMPO would begin the budget preparations for the new year probably in mid March. He said that, at the next TAC meeting, we would probably make an official “call for projects” to come into the budget process. Mr. Jones said he put this item on the agenda to stimulate thinking and mention a few things he remembered from past meetings.. Mr. Jones said that Ms. Reed has already mentioned to him the possibility of a sign inventory to meet new TxDOT regulations. Mr. Jones said Lubbock County and the City of Lubbock Traffic Engineering would most likely need to carryover the two projects they are currently doing this fiscal year simply because they were unable to get started soon enough this year to actually finish the projects.

Mr. Jones said there was a right-of-way issue that was talked about a long time ago where there seems to be a need for all the entities in the planning area to try and resolve discrepancies in the individual thoroughfare plans in order to make right of ways consistent. He said there has been discussion on that issue any number of times and he felt that if the TAC wanted to, or if someone would take the lead on that, we might create a project to hire a consultant to ferret through that issue and bring us back a proposal for all of the governing entities to consider. He said this was just a thought that he wanted to throw out.

Mr. Jones said we just completed a master plan for Wolfforth and he felt that might stimulate some thought about some other planning studies that need to be done in and around the community as they continue to grow and Lubbock continues to grow out to meet them.

Mr. Jones said that back in September there was a rather lengthy discussion between Mayor Martin, Frank Phillips and Claude Dollins with regards to a presentation that Frank had just made on the newly installed information signs on the Loop. He stated the ensuing discussion had to do with whether or not we could stream video from those cameras, or any other cameras in the City for that matter, to news networks, radio, TV, etc. Mr. Jones said he thought the Mayor wanted some kind of cost estimate to actually achieve “streaming video”. He said you could go back and read your minutes and decide for yourself what might be concluded, but that is another project that might be considered and probably the lead would be Traffic Engineering. Mr. Jones asked Mr. Warren if Mr. Phillips might be able to help. Mr. Warren said that TxDOT’s Traffic Officer is working with the City’s Traffic Office. He said that the problem with that is that television stations have signed agreements directly with TxDOT. He said that he thought they already had streaming video.

Ms. Owens stated that they already do. She said that Mayor Martin was talking about some streaming video from detection cameras, which is a totally different issue. Mr. Warren asked if that could be done. Ms. Owens stated that it could, with a lot more money and some more engineering. She said that she didn’t know if that would be something that we would want to do as a joint effort. Mr. Warren said that he would defer to his traffic guys on that, as they know all the rules and regulations. Mr. Jones said he is just throwing out ideas for projects for next year’s budget. Ms. Owens said it would take fiber at intersections and that would be more of a “City thing” as it would be City fiber. She said it was presented in a work session to the City Council just to start getting the idea across but it would definitely take a funding effort to do that.

Mr. Jones stated that the point is at the next TAC meeting there will probably be a call for projects so he wanted everyone to begin thinking about if there was anything they needed to get done as far as the planning process is concerned, and begin to formulate the scope and cost and bring it back to the TAC. We will need it fairly quickly.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Discussion and action for revision of the Transportation Improvement Program and Metropolitan Transportation Plan to include additional projects to be included in the projected economic stimulus package.

Mr. Jones said the first thing he would like to bring to the TAC's attention is a calendar or timeline that is being proposed and would like the TAC's consensus. Mr. Jones said that the timeline starts with the meeting today. He said the next important date would be on February 11, 2009 where ads will be sent to the various newspapers to begin the process. He said the next important date would be February 14th, which will start the clock on the thirty-day process. Mr. Jones said the whole public involvement process is predicated on the President signing the Economic Stimulus bill on February 16th and all of the information so far says that everyone is working hard to get the bill out of conference and get it to the President's desk so he can sign in on February 16th. That information is what is driving the schedule to accomplish amending the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Jones said the timeline accomplishes the public information process but also serves to satisfy the Title VI Environmental Justice requirements. He said that on the map you can see that three, nearly four, of the projects fall into minority, low income areas and he feels that is important to remember as we go through the process, particularly in the House version of the bill, the projects that are ultimately selected are going to have to be in the low income and minority parts of the community, assuming that criteria stays in the bill. He said this is the paper trail where we show we have satisfied Title VI. He said you could also see that our timeline calls for one of our two required meetings to be in one of these areas and it will be at Patterson Library. The time for the meeting is such that it starts and stops before bus service stops, so we have accommodated the transportation aspect of Title VI.

Mr. Jones said the other interesting part of the plan that you do not see, is that we also as a part of the publication process, will adjust our website, make contact with the media, both radio and television, place our notice in two minority newspapers and the Golden Gazette, taking care of the senior citizens, and utilize our mailing list, including the Indian Tribes and all the associations. These features also serve to satisfy the Environmental Justice requirements of the public participation process. Having said that, Mr. Jones feels that we have our bases covered.

Mr. Jones said there is also a copy of the notice that will be published in your agenda backup. It gives the times when the meetings will be. The second required meeting will actually be the Transportation Policy Committee on March 17, 2009. Mr. Jones asked for any questions on the timeline. No questions were asked.

Mr. Jones said the next part of the presentation should be the projects that are in today's packet. He said there are two parts, the Transportation Improvement Program and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. He said that we need to look at those projects and to recommend that these projects go forward to the public comment period. Mr. Jones said that he knows that transit has brought some additions/changes and TxDOT is bringing some as well. Mr. Jones asked Mr. Warren if he would like to go first.

Mr. Warren said that he hoped to make this a lot easier. He reminded Mr. Jones that they had heard Austin was expecting all public involvement of the Transportation Improvement Program's to be approved by March 6th. Mr. Warren said the he and Mr. Jones had visited with Mayor Martin at Mr. Hopmann's reception and there was some indication that the Transportation Policy Committee might be able to alter the thirty day comment period by taking some type of action to reduce it. Mr. Warren asked if Mr. Jones had heard anything more on that deadline. Mr. Warren stated that he is not sure where it is coming from but it has to do with getting funds obligated under the deadline. Mr. Jones stated that he has not heard anything else about that.

Mr. Warren stated that he spent an entire day in Austin yesterday meeting with all twenty-five Districts and the Administration on the Economic Stimulus Plan for Texas. He said that he would go with rough numbers and asked the TAC not to hold him directly to the exact amounts. He said that Texas is looking to get approximately 2 ½ billion dollars out of the Economic Stimulus funding from Congress, fifty percent of which must be obligated within ninety days of the signing of the bill. He said that obligated doesn't necessarily mean under contract, but means a Federal Letter

of Authority has been issued that has obligated those funds to a specific project. He said what it typically means is you better have it under contract within 180 days. Mr. Warren said that the way the Commission voted last week to distribute this 2½ billion dollars, and they are all working on projected numbers as they will not get real numbers until February 16th when the President signs the bill, was to carve out \$500 million of that right off the top and distributed it to all twenty-five MPO's in the State based on the formula that is used to distribute funds to the MPO. As a result of that \$500 million, the allocations of the Lubbock MPO is about \$5.9 million. He said that money would be distributed to the Lubbock MPO to use as it sees fit. It can go into any project the MPO selects.

Mr. Warren said they also allocated \$500 million to send out to the Districts for rehab projects in the rural areas. Mr. Warren said that they selected their projects yesterday and he has them in the pipeline to go to Hale County, Castro County and on the Interstate all the way from here to Randall County. He said that \$500 million is going directly to the District to be put into rehab type projects and they were told yesterday that everyone of those have to go to contract by April. Mr. Warren said they are going to use that as a big chunk to get 50% of the funds obligated in the first few days. Mr. Warren said they will be able to do that and it is not a problem. He said they also asked everyone to accelerate projects up into March because they found themselves, with Economic Stimulus coming in and the remainder of the regular fund fixed letting and the Prop 14 funds, between now and August looking at about \$31/2 billion to go to contract. He said that is more than a full year's worth in six months. He said they do not want to do that all in one month and have a \$2 billion letting as it would overwhelm the contracting industry and the prices would go through the roof so they want to flatten that out and do \$600 million a month, starting in March, all the way through August.

Mr. Warren said Lubbock was unable to accelerate any projects into March because TxDOT was looking for regular funded projects and Lubbock didn't have any left. He said they would do all their District funds in April for the rehab. He said they have taken a billion dollars to go to the MPOs and the Districts and that leaves a billion and one half for the Commission to use at their discretion. They will select what projects that money goes to.

Mr. Warren said what the Administration asked TxDOT to do was put together a proposal to leverage as much money as possible and all the MPOs and the Districts will get together on Monday in Austin to talk about how they need to pursue this. Mr. Warren said he submitted a list yesterday for the Lubbock metro area. He said the Commission is going to expect the distribution that goes to the MPOs to be leveraged to get more money out of the Commission and if you want a piece of that 4.5 billion dollars you better be willing to put your 5.9 in on these specific projects. Mr. Warren said you don't have to. You can take that 5.9 and spend it anywhere you want. He said that he submitted two projects, the Northwest Passage and he said to back up a surprise to most of you Northwest Passage is a 40 million project in which the City of Lubbock is putting 25 million dollars and were counting on the state and federal funds for the remainder of the 15 million. With the collapse of Category 2 last year, there is no Category 2 money to put into that project. He said they still have, however, 8 million dollars of Category 7 available right now, Metro Mobility money that the MPO can decide where it goes. The TPC directed us nearly a year ago to put that 8 million in the Northwest Passage. He said he just never completed the transaction and it turns out that it is a good thing. Had the 8 million been put into that project, it would be considered funded and would not be eligible for economic stimulus funds. He said right now that money is unobligated.

Mr. Warren said the 15 million that is not "funded" on the Northwest Passage is eligible for Economic Stimulus funds. He said the other project was the West Loop; the widening of the main lanes between 34th and 19th Street is an unfunded project as well. He said that he submitted these two projects to the Commission and feels that it has a good chance of being selected. If the MPO agreed to put 3 million of their distribution in the Northwest Passage, ask the Commission for the remaining 12 million and agreed to put the other 2.9 million of their distribution in the West Loop and ask the Commission for 15 million. In other words, we will use the 5.9 million dollar

distribution to leverage 27 million dollars out of the Commission. He said the reason he thinks it has a high chance for success is because on top of that what the City has already put on the table with 25 million and the total cost of those two projects are \$40 and roughly \$18 million would be \$58 million worth of construction. The City and MPO would be funding over 50% of that with their own funds and asking the Commission for 27 million. By the Commission investing 27 million into Lubbock they will get nearly 60 million in construction out of the deal. They look very favorably on this leveraging from the locals. Mr. Warren said we were fortunate to already have 25 million set up for leverage. Mr. Warren said what he is going to have the unfortunate job of doing is asking the TPC to commit their additional 6 million dollars of distribution from the Commission to those two projects to try and leverage an additional 27 million out of the Commission.

Mr. Warren said that he thinks when they ranked their projects for the West region there were probably 20 projects. The West region includes 7 districts out in West Texas including El Paso, Odessa, San Angelo, Lubbock and Amarillo. He said there was twenty some odd projects on that list and Lubbock's projects ranked 2nd and 6th based on level of contribution. He feels the Commission will smile on that. He feels that it could be used to leverage the additional \$27 million towards those projects. He doesn't know when they were ever going to get to the West Loop as there were no funds for it and this is a way to get that project rolled in, the Northwest Passage fully funded, with what he is proposing to the City of Lubbock and the rest of the MPO. If the TPC is willing to give up that 6 million dollar distribution they still have an 8 million dollar balance in Category 7 to be used at the MPOs discretion on any project they desire and it doesn't have to be done in this time frame for economic stimulus. He said they would have time to get the plans developed and select the right projects. He said the City of Lubbock might choose to leverage their own money and maybe do the rebuild on 82nd or University or something like that. They can utilize the 8 million in Cat 7 if the MPO agrees to that.

Mr. Warren said, to him, it seems like a fair deal and a good deal. He said it brings additional funds to Lubbock. It shows the Commission and the Administration that the MPO is on board with high profile projects and is willing to commit their distribution to those projects while at the same time we hold in reserve this 8 million in Cat 7 that we would have had to put into the Northwest Passage. He said it is kind of a trade off on our part. If that is what this group desires to pursue and the TPC approves it makes the TIP amendment a little easier.

Mr. Warren said there are two parts to the TIP amendment on the highway side. One of them is Phase IV of Marsha Sharp. He said we have to amend that no matter what because the funding source has changed. He said it needs to be updated. The Northwest Passage project still has the old limits on it from when were trying to do the pass through tolling and it included the Quaker and Erskine interchange. We need to change that and clean those up regardless. He said they are going forward this summer with a project on the West Loop to reverse the ramps on the west side of the Loop and rebuild the frontage road. That is funded by TxDOT dollars. He said we need to get that into the TIP. He said those things have to occur whether we do any of the economic stimulus so we needed to do a TIP amendment anyway. We also have to do an MTP amendment. What he is saying is you will probably be able to throw out this Slide Road job that is in there because it is not going to be considered for economic stimulus at this point. He said the bottom line is that the TPC will make this call. He said he will make his proposal to them and ask them to accept it and would sure include any discussion from this group right here if they would rather have that package. Mr. Warren said the TPC could say flat out that they do not agree.

Mr. Warren said that if the funding is not obligated in the time limits stated the money would be taken away forever and sent to other states. He said TxDOT nor the Commission wants to let that happen. Texas is not going to let that happen. He said since the Administration decided to put a shorter time line on the MPOs for specific projects they want developed that way, we still have 15 days if they couldn't make it, to get those into projects and still get them obligated for the State of Texas in that 90 days.

Mr. Warren told Ms. Reed that he didn't know about her University job or 82nd but 75 days is not a lot of time to get something done. He said he is open to it and is saying that we can trade the 8 million in cat 7 for that 6 million in distribution. He said it would be up to the TPC to put that wherever they want. If they want to put that into University at that time that is their call. It is eligible for that.

Mr. Hertel asked if the Economic Stimulus package does not go, the State can no longer fund the Northwest Passage. Mr. Warren agreed. Mr. Hertel said you have 25 million dollars from the City. Mr. Warren said they have 8 million in Category 7 if the TPC wanted to put it into it. It is unobligated at this time. Mr. Warren said that we would be 7 million short if the Economic Stimulus doesn't go through but he doesn't see that happening. He said that he has every indication that it is going to be signed on the 16th and the clock starts ticking that day. He said that is why they were meeting yesterday all day long to figure out how to make sure we don't send any money back, and we won't. He said if he fails, they would take his money and put it into another District first. He said that these two projects that he described could be delivered. He said there is a little bit of leeway on the West Loop as they extended the let date all the way to April 2010 but still want the majority of the projects this summer but understand there are projects that need a little more leeway so they extended it. He said we have another year to spend the other 50%. He said they are looking at taking bids on the Northwest Passage, and he needs to speak with Ms. Reed, but right now it is scheduled for a July letting that they could make, but he was also told yesterday that we need that quicker and it could in May. Ms. Reed said they couldn't get there. Mr. Warren said it all depends on the City being able to get their funds together and may be looking at June. He said that one would go under contract this summer for the Northwest Passage. He said he is scheduling West Loop for around December or January letting. He said within the next nine months everything will be under construction. He said the bottom line is with the 6 million distribution from the MPO and the 27 million they are going to leverage out of the Commission, that is 33 million additional dollars brought to the City in the next nine months.

Mr. Warren said he thinks this is a good plan and he is open to discussion. He said you will come out a little ahead as you will get 2 million more than the Commission was going to send and you are showing them you are willing to commit your funds to these high profile projects to leverage more. It is a guarantee that if you don't put some skin in the game they are not going to select your project. Mr. Warren said that local leveraging is already in place, which is good.

Ms. Reed said the only thing that bothers her about the project is that they have already leveraged more than 50% of the total cost of that project with the City and to put more money on top of that seems a little bit outrageous of a demand for the Commission to select that project when they have already got 25 million from the City going towards it. Mr. Warren said what you are really leveraging is the West Loop. He said he thinks they would fund Northwest Passage as you already have 25 million in but he is trying to get more projects funded by the Commission. He said the original agreement on Northwest Passage would take more than 50% all along. He said he has no doubt they will put 12 million into that without blinking just because the City has already put 25 million in. He is trying to get more out of them. He said they would be paying the lion's share of the West Loop, 15 million of the 18 million. He said he thought they could grab another project and combine them and show that we have a 50% leverage of the local entities for these projects if they will fund the other 50%. He said the West Loop is a benefit and then we don't have that gap in the Loop.

Ms. Reed said she doesn't disagree with that. She asked if Mr. Warren was looking to lump them together as one project for construction. She verified it would still be two projects and would still go to the Commission as two projects. Mr. Warren agreed but he said the reason he feels confident about it is that the Commission has 1.5 billion dollars at their disposal and the numbers he was hearing yesterday for the West region, which you know we are not going to get that much of it as the population centers are in Houston and Dallas, could be 10 percent of that which is 150 million dollars. He said 150 million goes well beyond the number six project on their list. He said since we are numbers two and six he feels very confident that those two will be funded. He said

he will not have that answer until sometime next week. He said all four regions gave their lists to Mr. Saenz yesterday and he thinks there will be a special called Commission meeting next week to adopt the list because it needs to be ready to hit the ground going February 16th. Mr. Warren said he would not have an answer even by the TPC meeting next week. He said they need to assure the Administration the MPO is behind that plan and are committed to designating our association to those two projects. He stated that he seriously believes they will be funded without question. He said they could then move forward to get them let.

Ms. Reed asked Mr. Warren if he seriously felt that we would have to leverage even more on the Northwest Passage project. Mr. Warren said the City wouldn't but the MPO would. He said he could have set it up either way he guessed, but he said he didn't feel it would matter either way because he thinks they will look at both of them combined. He felt like the way he set it up might help the West Loop. He said the bottom line is that the State/Feds will pay that 15 million one-way or the other. He said the City of Lubbock would still only contribute 25 million. He said if it doesn't get selected there is a problem and he has to find 7 million dollars somewhere which means that letting would be delayed a year for him to be able to gather another 7 million from the State. He said the Northwest Passage should fly through. He said there is no way they will not look at that and see an excellent leveraging by the local government.

Mr. Hertel asked out of curiosity which of the two projects was the number two project. Mr. Warren said the Northwest Passage was two. He said the way they ranked them in the region was they set it all up and showed how much is being leveraged, how much the total project cost was and sorted by the best leveraging. He said that El Paso had one project that had more leverage than the Northwest Passage and he didn't know the other three projects between that and the West Loop. He said there was still plenty left of the 50 million below that one and so he feels that if they give 10% to the West region those two will fall into it. He said he would know more, maybe even after the meeting Monday that he and Mr. Jones will attend on Monday.

Ms. Reed asked when Mr. Warren thought they would let the 19th Street project or West Loop project if it is selected. Mr. Warren said next December or maybe January. He said they were given to April but Mr. Barton is trying to cover himself and make sure all of that money is obligated in the one-year period. He wants them all let by early 2010, January at the latest. Mr. Warren said they can make that and he is still trying to see if they can make December. He said he would like to make December so they could say they got them all in 2009.

Ms. Reed said that all she could say is if it is all selected there are going to be some serious construction issues. Mr. Warren agreed but didn't feel that it would be any more issues that what they have dealt with before and feels they can handle it. Mr. Warren said that was the result of his meeting yesterday. He said they didn't give the Districts any option. They said put together a plan for your MPO and how you plan to use those distributed funds. He said they did tell them that they were not committing the MPO to anything but this was their chance to leverage funds out of the distribution. He said he feels it is a good deal. Ms. Reed said that would free up the other 8 million. Mr. Warren said the 8 million would not have to go into the Northwest Passage. Ms. Reed asked about the 12 ½ million not found for the Freeway. Mr. Warren said they are still working on that but will probably have to make that District Discretionary funding.

Mr. Warren said he was happy to have found that 8 million so that he could have something to offer the MPO in exchange for the 6 million dollars. He said this would give more time, as it won't have to be rushed to meet the Economic Stimulus requirements. He said if that is the wish of the TAC and we can go to the TPC with that recommendation it will make this a little easier as we will have specific projects and we will know the funding breakdown.

Mr. Heinrich wanted to know if the West Loop didn't make the cut if there was a chance they might lose the Northwest Passage. Mr. Warren said he didn't think so. He said they would be considered separately as they are separate funds. He said Northwest Passage was such a good deal they couldn't not pass it. He stated that he feels they will select both of them and he says

that based on discussions with the Administration, indicating to him that is a good offer and it should be well received by the Commission.

Mr. Jones said that they still need to accommodate the schedule, as we need to start the process. He said we need to put these projects by name in our public notice so we need to have some direction about which ones to keep in, which ones to take out, based on Mr. Warren's presentation.

Mr. Warren said that he was sorry that Mr. Cash was stuck in Austin for an extra day because he knows the mechanics of this, but he said the top two are both associated with Marsha Sharp. He said both of those are still just Phase IV but they had to split it into two projects because in their CSJ numbers are set on the State Highway Map and at Avenue A the CSJ number breaks. They weren't aware of it before and all they are doing is splitting it into two projects and it still totals the \$66 million dollars. He said we need to wipe out the 100% economic stimulus comment on the second one. He said the second page, the first one you look at is the Northwest Passage and what they are proposing to change on that is primarily the limits as the old TIP went all the way past Quaker and it shouldn't say East of Quaker, but West of Quaker. He said the original project was the big Northwest project, including the rebuild of Quaker and Erskine and the limits need to be changed to reflect what is actually being done. It also reduces the cost from seventy some odd million down to forty million. He said you would see more on that because it will have some inflation built into it.

Mr. Warren said the next one is the ramp reversal project on the West Loop that they are planning to take bids on in May. He said that is a small piece of the overall large West Loop project. He said this has been broken out because the overall main lane project on the West Loop where they were going to widen everything and rebuild 19th Street and reverse the ramps was too expensive and they were unable to do that. They were approached by a developer that was interested in accelerating that project and he offered to put in \$500,000 to do the ramp reversal early. He said TxDOT said they could do that so they are putting 1 ½ million into that project and the developer is putting in \$500,000 so they can go ahead and get the ramps reversed now. At the time they thought they would be waiting till 2011 or so. He said that is why this was pulled out. He said those plans are complete and ready to go and they will take bids in May assuming they get their environmental clearance and that is why they had to be separated out. Mr. Heinrich asked if they are the x-pattern. Mr. Warren said they are a diamond pattern and are going to the x-ramps on the West side. He said that would open up that undeveloped land for development. He said they don't ever want to leave money on the table if someone wants to add funding.

Mr. Warren said the next page shows FM 1730, which is Slide Road. He said this is one they were considering taking to economic stimulus. He said it is from Loop 289 to 98th Street and is simply a pavement repair project. He said he would recommend that be removed, as it would not be considered under economic stimulus. He said the same thing with FM 2255. He said it does not need to be included in this amendment. He said he thinks it is in the current TIP and can stay till we do a new TIP but there is no funding for this project.

Mr. Warren said the next page is the West Loop main lanes. He said it is already in the TIP but since we are setting up another CSJ for the ramp reversals it probably needs to be shown as 2010. He said it would be 100% economic stimulus funding and that needs to be reflected on the sheet. Mr. Warren said what you have is cleaning up a couple of projects that need to be cleaned up anyway. Mr. Warren said this has to be done and you cannot obligate funds unless they are in the current STIP. He said the obligation is the key to TxDOT. He said you have 90 to 180 days to obligate it.

Mr. Warren said that the TPC can do what they want with the 6 million but they have to obligate it in 75 days. He said his guess is that they will say to go with this plan, especially if this group backs it. He said he hopes he has explained it well and would be happy to answer any questions.

Ms. Owens pointed out on the last project that it says 0.2 South of 4th and shouldn't it be Frankford. Mr. Warren agreed that it should be 0.2 Miles South of Frankford. Mr. Warren thanked Ms. Owens for catching that. Mr. Warren said that he apologizes but that we are under a tight deadline and he needed to get a package together immediately and he was told yesterday to come up with a plan and he hopes he came up with one that we are happy with. Mr. Warren said the Districts came up with some criteria that they used to rank projects and to give the Commission some reason to select.

Mr. Jones said the discussion to date with John Barton has been the I-35'ers against the rest of the world trying to push their light rail and are wanting as much money as they can get their hands on. He said even more bluntly it has been Michael Morris, North Central Texas Council of Governments, who is lobbying as hard as he can lobby to get his hands on as much money as he can get his hands on to build their passenger rail service. Mr. Warren said that TxDOT's position is a provision of the bill that says it shall be distributed fairly and equitably and the Governor has to certify that these funds have been distributed fairly and equitably. He said the Commission is looking at the Districts for a way to tell them this is how it needs to be distributed to the other areas and give them a good reason to pick the projects.

Mr. Hertel asked if they have plans on the shelf. Mr. Warren said they have some CSJ projects. Mr. Jones said they have projects rat holed that go years back. Mr. Warren said it is 1.5 billion that they can spend and the Commission doesn't want to do that and they are counting on us to give them the reason not to. Mr. Jones said they are trying to woo and wow the Commission with exactly that word. Mr. Morris has said the selection process ought to award those projects with WOW. What project can give you the most impact within the State and in the region and can create the most jobs and can sustain those jobs for more than just six or seven months or even a year's period of time. Mr. Warren said that it would only create jobs in the D/FW area. Mr. Jones agreed and said that no one in the State except those big TMAs have those type of projects. He said that if we were at the beginning of Marsha Sharp we would be in competition for that kind of classification.

Mr. Warren said he feels these projects are at the lower edge of the WOW because they are long-term projects. He said they are trying to avoid going out with overlays that are done in three months. We need projects that go longer and we have three years to spend all this money. He said they will look at some projects that will spread it out over a couple of years and they want to create jobs all around the State and not in just one location. Mr. Jones said that is not to say they don't expect a good number of maintenance projects because they have a classification of money called "grouped" that they are going to work with.

Mr. Warren said that the rehab money was only going to be 188 million Statewide and the Commission made them bump it up to 500 because we cut rehab maintenance last year to put more money into build and they want to restore that. He said he feels the Commission is honorable and is looking for a fair way to share this around the State. Ms. Owens asked why take out FM 2255. Mr. Warren said it was not being considered a mobility project. He said it is a rehab because they are not adding capacity, only a turn. Ms. Owens asked about curbs and gutters. Mr. Warren agreed that it was curb and gutter but did not meet the definition of a mobility project and it is funded as a rehab project. Mr. Warren said he made the call to pull it out personally because he feels that if we can get these two projects we have done well. He said by doing some of the actions he took yesterday he feels that there will be some money later for that project through state funds. He said he pulled out Slide Road too because on this package they were not looking for rehab. Ms. Owens said that Slide Road is hazardous. Mr. Warren agreed and said that it just keeps getting bumped for funding reasons. He said they were looking for big mobility projects and that technically is a rehab job and they focused their rehab outside Lubbock. Ms. Owens asked about Slide from 98th to FM 1585. Mr. Warren said it couldn't be ready as they have four million dollars worth of right of way to buy.

Mr. McCay asked about discussion on the timeline and public involvement. Mr. Warren asked if we had looked into the bylaws to see if the TPC has the authority to alter that timeline as the Mayor indicated he wanted to have this done by March 6th. Mr. Jones said if you take the plan at face value you couldn't, as it is pretty black and white. Mr. Warren said they need to ask that question while they are down there Monday. He said if Mr. Barton were still hung up on this March 6th deadline, although in this case it doesn't matter, as we are not going to let any projects in April anyway, we would need to know. He said the projects cannot be obligated unless they are in a TIP but our two projects are not proposed for letting in April so he might be willing to say alright as long as it is done by March 16th. He said they need to bring that up to him. He said we need to find out if the TPC takes action and says by decree this is a fifteen-day public comment period if they can do that. He said the TIP public meetings are sparse. Mr. Warren said they would ask Mr. Barton about that on Monday.

Mr. Hertel said that it is in the bylaws but he felt it was just a policy. Mr. Warren said it is and where you get stuck is the Federal Requirements for public involvement. He said it is a grey area. He said they tell you to adopt a public participation policy and you are supposed to follow it. He said if the TPC adopted that policy they could amend it. Mr. Jones and Ms. Davis reminded Mr. Warren that to amend it you must go to public involvement and that is 45 days. Mr. Warren said this is frustrating. Mr. McCay said that this is a change of direction with the stimulus plan and it is calling for quick action. Ms. Davis suggested maybe a waiver. Mr. Jones said they would ask the question. He said the TAC doesn't need to approve it but just wanted to share the timeline with the TAC. Mr. Warren suggested if there is a way to move that last date up it would be better and said they might find out more on Monday. He said that where the State is stuck is that all TIP amendments have to go into the STIP and they don't want to do that very often. He said they might have to in this case. Mr. McCay asked if there were any concerns if the TPC chose to accelerate the timeline. Ms. Owens pointed out that Spring Break was the only thing that concerned her, as it is March 16th through 19th. Mr. Jones stated that it was a regular scheduled meeting.

Mr. McCay asked what action needed to be taken. Mr. Jones stated the action that needs to be taken is to approve these projects to go to the TPC with the recommendation that they go to the public comment process.

Steve Warren made motion for the Transportation Advisory Committee to recommend to the Transportation Policy Committee to go forward with the public involvement process on the Transportation Improvement Program and Metropolitan Transportation Plan for economic stimulus purposes and mandatory amendments to include the Northwest Passage project and the West Loop 289 project and further that the TAC recommend that the Transportation Policy Committee commit its economic stimulus distribution to the State to these two projects. Melinda Harvey seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jones stated that was just the highway portion of the amendments. Ms. Harvey said that she has put her current economic stimulus list with each package. She said that the way that the Transit side of Economic Stimulus goes, they will be allocated by formula to the larger urban areas, which will go directly to them, and Lubbock will fall into that category, and then the small urban and the rural go to the State. Ms. Harvey said it is their belief that the amount of money that is going to the small urbans and the rurals will not be able to be spent by those transit systems in the amount of time there is because it is a short turn around. Ms. Harvey said that what they prepared reflects their belief that there will be some money going back to the State that will be reallocated to projects that are lined up and approved and ready to go. She said that is why it is quite a bit expanded from what she sent earlier. She said as they got more information on the amounts of money and the split they felt there was a good change that they could actually do more than originally believed.

Ms. Harvey said the first one is land acquisition and relocation and Professional Service Fees. She said this is related to a proposed facility expansion for Administration and Maintenance. She said they wish to purchase the property that is on the northwest corner of 9th Street and Buddy Holly and they also want to purchase the property that is on the east side of Buddy Holly between 8th and 9th Street. She said the Professional Service fees are for any kind of environmental that needs to be done and for engineering and architecture fees to begin the design for the facility expansion. Ms. Harvey said they are not asking for the facility expansion right now because they could not accomplish that in the short timeline but it will get them down the road to the future funding for expansion of the facility. She said this is necessary because the facility was renovated in 1981 and since that time they have doubled the number of people that work at Citibus and have more than doubled the number of vehicles they had so they are pretty crowded over there and need to expand. Ms. Harvey said they also need to update their security because in 1981 there wasn't any such thing as a security requirement for transit as there is now so they have some security deficiencies that they need to address.

Ms. Harvey said the next project is 23 replacement buses. She said these would be 30-foot buses and would be hybrid electric. She said this is what they are really looking at for the money that may be turned back from the small urbans and the rurals. She said they have just finished procurement on three hybrid electric buses so their specifications are ready. She said the City of Lubbock now does Citibus' procurement, a change that was made this past summer. Ms. Harvey said she is working with the City and they have all their paperwork done and are waiting on Ms. Harvey to finalize changes on the specs and they will be ready to advertise this project. She said it will be like any other project in that it will have the disclaimer that it is contingent on funding so if for some reason it is not funded it will just be canceled. She said they intend to do an initial procurement for just nine buses with the remainder being an option that will be exercised over the life of the stimulus funding.

Ms. Harvey said the next one is 12 replacement Para transit vehicles. She said if they should get funding for this they intend to purchase these vehicles off the State contract which means they do not have to go to procurement. She said the City of Lubbock would place an order so this project could be accomplished very quickly.

Ms. Harvey said the last two projects have to do with facility renovations that are independent of the large maintenance and administration projects and that is a bus wash replacement and parking lot expansion and some security needs that are related to that. Ms. Harvey said that she thinks it totals just fewer than 17 million dollars. She said they are looking at this as kind of a once in a lifetime opportunity to be able to replace their fleet. She said thirty six buses are eligible for replacement and if they were doing this the normal way, they would be lucky to get one or two replaced a year and they would never get it done till the first set they replaced were ready to be replaced again. She said this is really going to help them get it down the road to an updated fleet with smaller buses, which was the direction of the City Council. She said she would entertain any questions.

Mr. Jones asked what the total is now, as the funding summary would have to be adjusted. Ms. Harvey said she would email the projects and the funding summary as well. Mr. Jones said that the list that they are looking at is inclusive and is not an addition to or a change from what is in the agenda packet but a resubmittal of the entire thing. Mr. Hertel asked if there was a deadline or timeline that they had to complete it. Ms. Harvey said that they would have to have a letter of obligation for the money within the 90 to 180 day time frame. She said she has spoken to the manufacturer and he is willing to work with them to get any funding pushed a little bit. Mr. Hertel asked if there was an issue with the land acquisition. Ms. Harvey said they are working on that and they are as aware as anyone else of the timeframes.

Mr. McCay wanted verification on the land acquisition being on Buddy Holly between 8th and 9th Street. Ms. Harvey said yes, it is Tom Jones Equipment and some crumbled old building. She said the other parcel is the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ of the land they already occupy and Emilio Abeyta is the

owner and his law office is in there and there is also a bail bond. She said that she believes all the property owners have already gotten letters from the City that we intend to pursue purchasing their property. She said she knew this was coming up and they want to move it along because it is a time consuming project and there are a lot of things that can go wrong or slow you down so they are trying to move it along as quickly as they can. Mr. McCay asked if they had backup plans in case some of the owners will not sell. Ms. Harvey said it might be, if they come to that, it would have to be pulled out of the stimulus funding and they would have to fund it from another source. She said that would be their backup plan. Ms. Owens asked if on the State contract for the 12 replacement vehicles if that contract is new or would it retire soon. Ms. Harvey said she did not know when it ends but it is through the Houston/Galveston Council. She said they have all those items listed. She said through another funding source they are purchasing from the same contract.

Ms. Harvey made motion to recommend the TAC go forward with the public involvement process for Transportation Improvement Program and Metropolitan Transportation Plan amendments for the economic stimulus funds for transit projects as presented. Steve Warren seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Reports

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

TxDOT

Cities and Counties

City of Lubbock

Mr. Hertel said the City of Lubbock is going out for advertisement for bids on the Slide Road project. Right now they are looking at taking bids on March 4th and are hoping to take it to the City Council on March 23rd to move forward. They hope to break ground on April 20th and hope to complete sometime around Thanksgiving with the entire project. .

City of Wolfforth

No report.

Lubbock County

Mr. Olenik said they are working on their Professional Services Agreement with the MPO regarding the task they committed to. He said Mitch Satterwhite at the City of Lubbock and John Grace with Lubbock County has looked it at. He said he is trying to make sure he is giving the final version to the MPO.

TxDOT

Mr. Warren said he wanted to say a quick "thank you" to Lubbock County and the City of Lubbock for the Outer Loop Study. He said the agreements have been signed and executed. He said he has received payment from the City of Lubbock and that Mr. Olenik said his check is in the mail. He said they began renegotiating probably last March on this project. He said that the City's and County's contribution to this Study is appreciated. Mr. Warren stated that the second portion of this study would be done in house if it is determined to be feasible.

Mr. Warren said they would be taking bids next week on 50th Street from Slide Road to Loop 289. He said that project has been on hold for quite a while but it is good to go and they hope to get good bids on that one.

Mr. Warren said he also apologizes for the rapid fire on this economic stimulus but they are reacting on the run. He stated that he wanted to assure everyone that he has Lubbock's best interest at heart and not just TxDOT's. Mr. McCay agreed and said that he knows Mr. Warren has the City Of Lubbock and Lubbock County at heart.

Citibus

Ms. Harvey had nothing to report.

Director's Report

Mr. Jones said that if anyone is interested in either the House or Senate version of the bill he could get copies to the TAC. He stated if anyone is interested in seeing the list of amendments, Mr. Barton's presentation on behalf of TxDOT to the Commission last week, TxDOT's position with regard to the stimulus package and Mr. Barton's power point he has all of these.

Mr. Jones said both bills have been reported out of Committee and are in Conference now and as of last Friday the conferees had not even been appointed but everyone still says the President will have the bill signed on the 16th of February.

Meeting Adjourned.

Mr. McCay adjourned the meeting at 4:27 p.m.