

**Minutes Of The
Transportation Advisory Committee
Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization
April 7, 2009**

The meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization was held 916 Main, 2nd Floor Conference Room, at 2:00 PM on April 7, 2009. Required notices were given to the members of the Committee and the public. The following Transportation Advisory Committee members were present:

Marsha Reed, City of Lubbock
Mark Heinrich, Lubbock County
Frankie Pittman, City of Wolfforth
Steve Warren, TxDOT – Lubbock
Sharmon Owens, City of Lubbock
Melinda Harvey, Citibus
Bill Boon for Randy Henson, City of Lubbock

Visitors/Staff: David Jones, Lubbock MPO
Tera Davis, Lubbock MPO
Darrell Westmoreland, Lubbock MPO
Sally Abbe, City of Lubbock

Call to Order.

Ms. Reed called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Acknowledgement of Quorum by Chairman.

Ms. Reed acknowledged a quorum of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Approval of the March 3, 2009 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Ms. Reed asked for any corrections to the March 3, 2009 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee. Ms. Harvey stated that Mr. Bill Boon's name was left off of the attendees of the February 3, 2009 meeting minutes.

Steve Warren made motion to approve the March 3, 2009 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee with the correction of adding Mr. Bill Boon's name to the list of attendees. Frankie Pittman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Call for Projects for the FY 2009/10 Unified Planning Work Program and Tentative Calendar.

Mr. Jones stated this the first all for projects as we begin our budget process for the new fiscal year FY 2009/10. Mr. Jones pointed out the dates on the tentative calendar. Mr. Jones said that any projects not presented today need to be submitted and presented by the May meeting so that budget discussions can begin in order to prepare the Unified Planning Work Program.

Ms. Sally Abbe, GIS Manager with the City of Lubbock's Planning Department, introduced herself. She said that she had spoken with Mr. Jones in the past week about any interest the MPO might have in taking part in some aerial photography. Ms. Abbe handed out a proposal that

the Planning Department has submitted as a capital project request to be partially funded by the City. Ms. Abbe stated that the City of Lubbock acquires new digital orthophotography, which she said is the fancy new words for aerial photography in a computerized format, every five years. She said the regular acquisition time would be 2010.

Ms. Abbe pointed out that the map handed out shows the proposed area they are looking at but this is subject to change depending on what kind of responses are received when the City Of Lubbock issues a Request for Proposals. She said they have included an area that encompasses the MPO boundary. She pointed out the red areas on the map that was flown in 2005 and that was because they had participation from the geological survey. She said they would not propose to go that far north nor west in this proposal unless they decided to participate again.

Ms. Abbe said they are proposing a 350 square mile, four-band digital color and color infrared orthophotography and 200 square miles of contours and a digital train model and other planametrics including, for the City Of Lubbock, fire hydrants. Ms. Abbe said what the planametric list will encompass is certainly up for discussion if people have things that they think that they need they can certainly be looked at when they put together the RFP. Ms. Abbe said this is kind of a moving target depending on what comes in on the bids.

Ms. Abbe said the request that she is making to the MPO is for \$200,000 on a million dollar project. She said at this point she has the other \$800,000 in various City of Lubbock funds. She stated that she would be happy to answer any questions. She stated that she thought Ms. Owens would be interested in the planametrics.

Ms. Reed asked for any questions to be directed to Ms. Abbe. Ms. Reed said the proposed area encumbers the MPO boundary area. Mr. Westmoreland stated that the MPO boundary has been changed and there is portion at the bottom outside of the boundary shown on Ms. Abbe's proposal. Ms. Abbe stated that if Mr. Westmoreland would send her a shape file it would be updated. Mr. Westmoreland said the storm water study area appeared to be out of our boundary. Ms. Abbe said they actually cross a little bit into Hockley County. She said that last year the extra miles were included in Hockley County because that is the USGS Quad Boundary and not necessarily an interest to the City of Lubbock but was to the geological survey. Ms. Reed thanked Ms. Abbe for her proposal.

Mr. Jones said that he thought there were going to be two presentations. Mr. Warren stated they are working on their presentation and that Mr. Frank Phillips would present the South Loop Study at next month's meeting. Ms. Owens said they are waiting for Dr. Lu to give them an estimate. Ms. Reed said the City Of Lubbock is going to propose their sign inventory. Mr. Jones stated that we could expect two proposals or possibly three at the next meeting. Mr. Jones stated that the MPO would take the proposal today under advisement. Ms. Reed asked if Mr. Jones wanted anyone else with proposals to get them to him prior to the next meeting. Mr. Jones stated that he did.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Reports

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

Cities and Counties

City of Lubbock

No report.
Lubbock County

No Report

City of Wolfforth

No Report.

TxDOT

Mr. Warren stated that they are taking bids in June for the first of two economic stimulus projects. He said that at this time Ms. Reed is working with them to get the funding agreements taken care of. He said the Administration in Austin asked them if they could refigure the way we are funding the projects to get the Commission's economic stimulus funding in the first 120 days. Mr. Warren stated that the City of Lubbock was happy to accommodate the Commission and they are getting the agreements ready.

Mr. Warren said that they forgot that they will have to do a Value Engineering Study but Austin has a consultant on board and it will be done the last week of this month. Mr. Warren stated that he did not see a lot of changes coming out of the study. He told Ms. Reed that she or her designee would need to attend the meeting. He said they claimed there is a three-day minimum but he is not sure and will let Ms. Reed know. He said that was the only outstanding issue on that project as far as he knows.

Mr. Warren said they are getting their rural economic stimulus project going. This is the I27 pavement repair where they will work on approach slabs and where the bridges "dip" coming off the bridge. Mr. Warren said they are going to pursue another piece to the economic stimulus funding with the Department of Energy on bike facilities. He said they will send in an application for it but has no idea if it will go. He will keep Ms. Reed informed on the progress of that application. Ms. Reed said that she thought that early discussions with the Parks needed to take place.

Mr. Westmoreland wanted to know if this economic stimulus project was on a different timeline than the others. Mr. Warren said he is not sure what the timeline is but it is through the Department of Energy and does not have the same 120-day deadline. Ms. Reed asked if this was something that the City Of Lubbock could apply for as well. Mr. Warren said this is a separate part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and felt that it was an "open call". Mr. Warren said they would sit down with the City of ensure there is no "double dipping" of the funds. Mr. Warren said TxDOT is not pursuing it as an agency but as a district. Mr. Jones said that he sent all the stuff that Kirk Fauver sent to him with regards to that funding to Mr. Eichorst.

Mr. Warren stated that TxDOT had just finished their Work Zone Awareness Safety Week. He said that everyone needs to stress to their family and friends to slow down and pay attention. He stated that the work zones are the worker's offices.

Citibus

Ms. Harvey stated that they have already begun spending their economic stimulus funding. She said there was a provision that allowed them to spend the funding back to October 1st so they have already spent the money on preventive maintenance and the parking lot project. She said the vans should be here within ninety days after they begin assembling them. She said they have already purchased ten bus shelters and the buses will be on the production line in October and they should be in by November. She stated they have spent their money.

Director's Report

Mr. Jones pointed out the chart, which shows what Mr. Warren was talking about earlier that Mr. Jones calls the “funding shuffle” of the two stimulus projects.

Mr. Jones said that he needed to let the TAC know that the TPC approved the MPO participating in the May 14th Chamber’s Business Expo. He said that if you remember back to our Federal Certification Review, one of the recommendations that came from the team was that we get the MPO out more into the public eye and he felt this might be a good way to do that. Mr. Jones stated that the MPO is going to team up with the Foreign Trade Zone 260 and with Ports to Plains and have a booth. He invited everyone to come by on May 14th and visit..

Mr. Jones said the next thing is an update on the stimulus projects. He said Mr. Warren has already pretty well covered all of that. He said that to add to his report, in a conference call yesterday, Mr. John Barton indicated that the state was working extremely hard to be able to meet that 50% obligation that they have to meet within the 120 day window and that window daylight on June 29th so they are under the gun and are peddling as fast as they can pedal. Mr. Jones said our two project were scheduled, he thought to be on the April out of cycle STIP meeting. Mr. Warren said he thought they were. Mr. Jones said that we would not actually have approval on those projects until May 18th. Mr. Warren said that it is fine. He said they have May and June to get the projects listed and that we are in good shape.

Mr. Jones stated that he just wanted everyone to know that we have officially turned in our Plan B project for Lubbock and that is to say that a letter was sent to John Barton, et al, that said if for any reason one of our two stimulus projects cannot be advanced then we have this third project waiting to take the place of either of those projects. He stated that is the project that Ms. Reed turned in for Slide Road from Marshall Street to U.S. 84, which is part of the Northwest Passage grouping of projects.

Mr. Jones said that the 10th Annual Work Zone Safety Awareness week was observed April 6-10, 2009. He stated the campaign focuses attention on the importance of driving carefully through highway construction and repair sights. He said the slogan this year was “Drive to Survive, your future is riding on it”. He said the image on the state’s website was an image of a little girl in the car with her seatbelt on. Mr. Jones said that every year over one thousand people, according to their statistics, are killed in these work zones either by virtue of a traffic accident or some industrial accident and with \$27.5 billion worth of work being authorized everyone believes that number will not go anywhere but up. Mr. Jones said he would echo what Mr. Warren said and remind everyone to drive carefully whether it is a work zone or not. Mr. Jones said there is a lot of violence out on the streets today so drive carefully, mind your manners, and as the old slogan used to say “Drive Friendly”. Mr. Warren said that TxDOT did its part in apprehending a fleeing criminal in one of their work zones. He said apparently a lane closure at the North Loop and Interstate 27 was too much for him to navigate and he rammed into the center barrier and crashed his car. He said that the police apprehended him and took him off in handcuffs.

Mr. Jones stated that he wanted to mention rescissions. On March 11, 2009 the President signed a \$410 billion omnibus appropriations bill that included a larger rescission or drawback that will take place at the end of the year. He said the good thing about it is that it gives the states back the discretion to choose from what category of funds they want to take the money from whereas SAFETEA-LU did not do that. It actually prescribed the category the money was coming from and how much money was coming out of that category. Mr. Jones said the omnibus bill contains a provision to rescind \$3.15 billion dollars worth in contract authority but exempts specifically highway safety, rail grade crossings, transportation enhancement and sub allocated surface transportation program funds. Mr. Jones said that Tuesday of last week the TEMPO group and a group from TxDOT who have met before to talk about rescissions, reconvened for the purpose of discussing the Texas share of this rescission, which is estimated to be about \$270 million dollars. Mr. Jones said that the chart included in the handouts shows the bulk of the \$270 million dollars is to come from the unobligated balances of the interstate maintenance and national highway

systems program and it also shows you that the metropolitan planning funds are going to remain intact. He said it takes a portion of the air quality, bridge enhancement, flexible STP and minimum guarantee program which would otherwise typically be zeroed out if you look back at SAFETEA-LU and it keeps the equity bonus and the recreational trails intact and only takes a portion of the "other" program category. Mr. Jones said this is only a plan, a work in progress, and so if any of you are into highway finance and care to make comments or suggestions to this study committee, they are open to your comments. Mr. Jones said we do not know what is going to happen or how the rescission will be funded but that is one answer. He said, if that isn't enough SAFETEA-LU which expires September 9, 2009, also has one more rescission written into it and it is about another \$720 million dollars so we don't know how that will come out and are waiting to hear from TxDOT.

Mr. Jones said for those of you who are "trainiacs" there is a National Train Day Celebration on May 9, 2009. He said he thought that might be fun so you can look at the website on nationaltrainday.com and see how the rest of the world is celebrating.

Mr. Jones said that yesterday Citibus had a ribbon cutting. Greyhound Express officially christened their "Greyhound Packages Service".

Mr. Jones said he wanted everyone to know that we will be tracking legislation. Mr. Jones said the Director of TEMPO is sending periodical updates on bills that are related to transportation but include a lot of other things as well. He said that he decided instead of trying to reinvent the wheel he will send these updates out to the Transportation Policy Committee and the Transportation Advisory Committee and if you have a bill that you want to track, let him know and we will keep you up to date. He said you can go to the website at www.legis.state.tx.us and then go to legislation. Then go to bill lookup and plug in the number and it will give you a report, telling you the history of the bill and what the status is and everything you want to know about it.

Mr. Jones said if you need something to read, there is an interesting article that is prepared by the Texas House of Representatives and it talks about transportation and what the "state of the state" is on transportation and funding needs. He said it talks about the 2030 Committee, the Sunset Review and gives you an idea of where transportation overall might be falling short with regard to all the other agencies and their recommendations. He said it is interesting. He said it could also be found on the House of Representatives website.

Meeting Adjourned.

Ms. Reed adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.