

**Minutes Of The
Transportation Advisory Committee
Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization
May 5, 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 May 5, 2009. 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
Marsha Reed, City of Lubbock
Mark Heinrich, Lubbock County
Steve Warren, TxDOT – Lubbock
Sharmon Owens, City of Lubbock
Thomas Esparza, City of Lubbock
Melinda Harvey, Citibus
Nick Olenik, Lubbock County
Randy Henson, City of Lubbock
Theresa Drewell, Texas Tech University

Visitors/Staff: David Jones, Lubbock MPO
Tera Davis, Lubbock MPO
Darrell Westmoreland, Lubbock MPO

Call to Order.

Mr. McCay called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Acknowledgement of Quorum by Chairman.

Mr. McCay acknowledged a quorum of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Approval of the April 7, 2009 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Mr. McCay asked for any corrections to the April 7, 2009 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Melinda Harvey made motion to approve the April 7, 2009 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee. Marsha Reed seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Final Call for Projects for the FY 2009/10 Unified Planning Work Program.

Mr. Jones said he did not have any presentation prepared and was going to open the floor to those who wish to present.

Ms. Harvey stated that Citibus is requesting funding for a Fixed Route Study. They wish to hire a consultant to do this study. She stated the last time Citibus did a formal study was 19 years ago and there have been substantial changes since then. Ms. Harvey said, as everyone is aware, that Citibus has lost Federal operating assistance so they had to cut back their service and is not in a position to serve the community with the Fixed Route structure. Ms. Harvey said they do believe the transportation authorization bill that is current being debated will restore some amount of

operating assistance to transit providers and, if that occurs, they want to be ready to put more service on the streets as quickly as possible. That is one reason they are asking for this study to be done in the next fiscal year.

Ms. Harvey stated they want to look at several things in the study and not just routes. She said they want to look at ways that bicycle routes can be integrated with bus routes and transit stops. She said they also wish to look at an analysis of where employment locations are in the City to make sure that they adequately cover those with public transit. She said they also want to look at integration with rural providers and Greyhound service into the Fixed Route System. Ms. Harvey said they intend to include public participation. She said they wanted to make every effort to get the public involved so that they can hear what they want to say and hopefully design a system that meets their needs to the greatest extent possible. She said they have also been requested by members of their Transit Advisory Board to come to them at some point in the future with what they have termed a "wish list" of how Citibus would like their service to look like in the future. They intend for a study like this to be their "wish list" in effect that they would take to the Board and they would present the results of the Study to the Board, to the TAC, to the TPC, to City Council to anyone who wants to hear it.

Ms. Harvey said they are asking for \$100,000 to do the study. Mr. McCay asked if the survey would cost \$100,000. Ms. Harvey said it would. Mr. Henson asked if they would physically survey the rounds. Ms. Harvey said they were going to talk to Texas Transit Institute because they did the one 19 years ago. She said they would look at various things and that they have the benefit of being able to use the GIS so they can do overlays and see demographic information.

Mr. McCay asked if it were possible to get Texas Tech Civil Engineering involved or any of the folks at Tech in lieu of TTI. Ms. Harvey said they could look but they are hoping to work with somebody that has had experience doing this before. Ms. Harvey said the point of hiring a consultant is to bring in the expertise from it and she is a one person planning department so she does not have the time, resources, or experience to do this in-house but they could certainly contact the boys at Texas Tech. Mr. McCay asked if the footprint would be just the City of Lubbock or if it would be the entire Metropolitan Area Boundary.

Ms. Harvey said it would focus on the City of Lubbock, as it is their service area, but she stated she did want to look at the connections outside of their service area to see if there are ways to have the differences better mesh together. Ms. Harvey said that Greyhound already comes to their downtown transfer plaza but there is not a formal connection of their service with the rural providers. Ms. Harvey said the rural providers drivers are in Lubbock frequently for a large amount of time in the middle of the day as they bring trips in from the outlying areas in the morning and make the return trip in the afternoon. They have a vehicle and a driver here all day. Ms. Harvey felt if there was a way to integrate them into what Citibus does and if they could do outreach with the rural providers' passengers so they understand what Citibus' services were in the City it would be beneficial as they are sometimes stranded at the doctor's office after their appointments for half a day until the bus is ready to pick them up and take them home. Ms. Harvey said there are some gaps in the service that is provided out there that they would like to look at.

Mr. Jones asked if they would have to bid this. Ms. Harvey said that she thought if they went through TTI they are on the pre-approved list or state contract. She said they would work with Marta Alvarez at Purchasing in the City of Lubbock for all procurements so she said she would work with her to ensure they do the right thing. Mr. Jones asked if it would be longer than one year. Ms. Harvey stated it would only be for the one year. Ms. Reed asked if this would be 100% out of the MPO money. Ms. Harvey said that it would. Ms. Harvey said that, depending on the amount of funding they get from this, John Wilson has some alternate ideas of shifting funding. Ms. Harvey stated that she and Mr. Wilson have not been in the office together for over two weeks as they have been travelling. She stated she did not have a lot of specific details on how Mr. Wilson intends to fund this should the MPO be unable to fully fund the request.

Mr. Warren said that TxDOT is submitting for the TAC's consideration, Phase 2 of the South Loop 289 Corridor Study. Phase 1 was done last year to look at how to improve traffic flow on South Loop 289 without doing any major capacity increase. Mr. Warren said they contracted with Texas Tech University TransTech Lab and the results of Phase 1 determined that the appropriate means of improving flow on the main lanes would be to reverse the ramps from the diamond interchange to an X pattern. This basically reverses the ramps between Quaker and Indiana, from Indiana to University and University and IH-27 on the East Bound side only. Before TxDOT moves forward with implementing these changes, they understand that it would increase traffic on the frontage roads and put more traffic at the intersections. Phase 2 would study the affect of that additional traffic on frontage roads and intersections. He said the study would involve determining the level of service currently on the frontage roads and intersections and project a level of service on the frontage roads and intersections, develop signal timing plans to maximize the level of the service and develop a layman's presentation of modeling for use in public meetings.

Mr. Warren said they are showing a project duration of one year and the estimate from Texas Tech is \$58,746. Mr. Warren stated that TxDOT funded Phase 1 through the consultant budget. TxDOT does not foresee much in the way of consultant funding any time soon. Mr. Warren said this thing is pretty hot now because they are fresh off Phase 1 and would like to get it finished and come up with a plan on how to improve traffic flow on the South Loop. He said to do that they need to complete this study and TxDOT is asking the MPO to fund \$58,746.

Mr. Henson asked about the level of service on the Loop from the study. Mr. Warren said that it varies. He said it determined the outside lanes are Level of Service E, with the inside and middle lanes as Level of Service B and A. He said they are planning to pursue a public education opportunity. Mr. Henson said a remark was made at the CAC last week that the Amber Alert signs need to be utilized when they are not busy to say "Please move left". Mr. Warren said that there was discussion about a campaign to "Move Left Lubbock" but they didn't think Lubbock would deal well with being told to "Move Left". Mr. Warren said they are still going to pursue that idea from a public education standpoint. He said the study did show that the reversion of the ramps would improve congestion on the main lanes but they understand that would also have an effect on the frontage roads. Mr. Warren said if they were to do it they would build auxiliary lanes into the frontage roads as part of those changes. Mr. Warren said that Mr. Frank Phillips mentioned to him that a big chunk of it will be the signal timing studies and if the City of Lubbock were capable and willing to chip in to do the signal timing portion and do the work at their office it might reduce the scope of the study. Ms. Owens said that she felt they would need to do that work because of their synchronization. They would not want it to skew their arterials. Mr. Warren said he could not say how much it would reduce the cost as it is not broken down in the estimate. Mr. Jones asked Ms. Owens if there was a way she could look at it and get Mr. Warren a figure. Ms. Owens said that as far as what the ramp reversals were going to do to them, not really without some input from Dr. Lu. Mr. Warren said they have the synchro model. Mr. Warren stated they could work together as they get to that point. Ms. Owens said they would visit with Dr. Lu about it. She said they have a timing plan that they are implementing this summer and it will fall between the a.m. and p.m. peak and the bus drivers should see a big difference as she has already seen a difference on Slide Road and 82nd Street. She said with that in mind, of course they would help.

Mr. Jones asked Mr. Henson if he knew enough about Ms. Abbe's plan to talk about it. Mr. Henson said the Planning Department has had an ongoing process with the MPO to share funding in terms of updating the GIS maps. He said for the first five years every time the Feds came they would ask when the maps were going to be finished. Mr. Henson said "as soon as Lubbock quits growing". He said this is something that we have to stay up with or you will lose contact with it. Mr. Henson said Mr. Jones' group is required randomly to submit data to the state for traffic studies and the City's land use database is the only source that he has for the land use data and Mr. Buckberry does the special generator portion. Mr. Henson said they have always

funded one person and anywhere from two to four Tech part-time persons to stay on top of the update of the master Map and land uses.

Mr. Jones said he was actually talking about the aerial project. Ms. Reed said that most everyone was here when Ms. Abbe talked about the aerial project. She said it is time for the five year update and they will be doing a lot of contour updates, especially in the ETJ and the annexed areas. She said she doesn't remember the total dollars of all of it but believed that Ms. Abbe asked for \$200,000. Mr. Henson said that staggers everyone because they think it is just a picture but these are digitally and orthographically correct pictures. Mr. Henson said they put plates or disks on the ground when they shoot the film and put it into the computer and match the drawing on the disks as a known spot and come out plus or minus ten percent of a foot all across that drawing. Mr. Henson said the Engineering Departments and other outside groups use them extensively for design; all of the private surveyors use them for design studies on subdivisions, drainage flows.

Ms. Reed said that all the survey information that is gathered as part of this process is used for the base maps that the City of Lubbock, Lubbock County, LCAD, 911 and everybody uses for their base information. Mr. Henson said it all hooks together and if your house is on fire you want these maps to be correct because that is how the fire department and ambulances are going to get there. Ms. Reed said they use them daily. She said that contour information is going to be gathered and that is being paid for out of the storm water budget. She said that water has come to the table with three hundred and something thousand for the project. She said it would be done in two phases and the request for \$200,000 is basically for the aerial part of the project. Mr. McCay asked Ms. Reed if it would include the entire metropolitan boundary. Ms. Reed said it includes all of the MPO area, plus. Mr. McCay asked if it included the whole county. Ms. Reed said it did not include the entire county.

Mr. Henson said there has been a lot of discussion of how the private sector could pay for this but there isn't a mechanism and it depends on whether or not you agree the government owes that level of service to its citizens or not. Mr. McCay said or the protection of the citizens when you get into the drainage issue. Mr. Henson said everything that is physical on the flat surface on the ground depends on these aerials. Mr. McCay asked what the additional cost would be to extend this county wide. Ms. Reed said the aerial portion of it has come way down in cost and as far as the flight and pretty pictures, those are relatively inexpensive. She said the most expensive part is the contour data. Ms. Reed said if you want the pretty picture and it being tied to the same data base and survey information, those costs has come down significantly. Ms. Reed said it is a million dollar project and it goes into the information that has already been collected.

Mr. Jones said that there appears to be about \$358,746 dollars worth of new projects proposed which is a touch larger than our entire budget so he was unsure if the MPO would be able to handle all of this. Mr. Jones said his game plan was to take all of this information and for the next meeting the MPO would have a handout and make a recommendation to the TAC. Mr. Jones said by then we should have a tentative handle on the budget. He said the MPO is operating under the same directions that we have operated under every year and that is the TxDOT tells us to budget what was budgeted last year. This year it was January 21, 2009 when we actually found out what the hard numbers were. Mr. Jones said this will be the last call for projects and they will be evaluated and we will bring them back to the TAC next meeting for a vote.

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

Ms. Reed said they have started construction of Slide from 4th to Loop 289. She said that everyone is excited to get that going. Ms. Reed said the Erskine and Slide Road project looks like it is going to finish early, hopefully by late summer. She said that the preconstruction meeting for 50th Street from Slide to the West Loop will be Friday and construction should start shortly. Ms. Reed said it will be widened to four lanes and a continuous left turn lane. She said it was supposed to have been done before the West Loop project was finished but they ran into multiple right of way issues.

Ms. Reed said the Gateway Streets Projects are moving along. She feels fairly confident that the widening of Indiana Avenue will probably go, if not before the end of the year, early next year. She said that right of way will be fully dedicated and she has some concerns over the other projects in that regard but design should wrap up around October. She said that Quaker from 98th to 1585 and 114th and Quaker to Slide Road they are meeting with the property owners on that project next week. She said the developers are not causing any issues but the mom and pop farms may cause some issues. She said they did have some discussion in an Executive Session with the City Council last week over the Milwaukee project. She said they are taking back some different options for Council to consider and is not sure where that will go. Ms. Reed said there will be two projects. The first is Milwaukee from 94th to try to get past the lake area at 102nd Street or so and that is the one where they are having issues. She said they knew they had issues before they ever started the project. She said they were trying to get some decisions out of the Council which way they want to go on that project and the other Milwaukee project goes to FM 1585 and they will not know how to tackle that until the other issue is resolved. She said they are moving along on all the Gateway projects.

Ms. Reed said that the Lubbock Business Park was awarded by the Council last week to extend it over to MLK and that should begin construction shortly. Mr. Warren said that in regard to what they talked about with TxDOT participating in Indiana and Quaker, they are running that up the flag pole and everyone in Austin seems to be about as confused as he has ever heard. He said he even put it in layman's terms that he wants to cut a check to the City of Lubbock for X number of dollars out of their construction funding and how can he do that. He said they keep coming back and saying you can't spend dollars off of the state system. He said it is not off the system as it is on FM 1585 and they are still trying to figure out how to do that as they are interested in making those intersections work. Mr. Warren said he hasn't gotten any good answers out of Austin yet. He said the last he heard, and the City of Lubbock might not be aware of, is that when they widen these roads out to FM 1585 they will be turning seven lane roadways into a two lane FM road and they want to upgrade those intersections to handle turns but in order to do it properly they need to rebuild the whole intersection instead of just throwing some pavement out there and widening it.

Mr. Olenik asked what the limits were on south Indiana. Ms. Reed said to FM 1585. Mr. Olenik asked if they were not going to consider the city limits. Mr. McCay said that once the new junior high is done, would the developers make improvements to Quaker and Indiana and tie into FM 1585. Ms. Reed said that would be their decision and that the City has no requirement for them to do that. Mr. Henson said the City Council bailed out requiring any participation.

Lubbock County

Mr. Olenik said they have a project they are doing that is a GIS project. He said the compilation is complete and they have fifteen years of data tied to the street network. He said the output format is being prepared as such that the City of Lubbock can access it easily. He said there may be

multiple formats to be able to work with it. He said Don Becker wants to put some information with it to speak about how everything was arrived at, just an explanation of how it was put together and where the information came from. He said they hope to get that in the next few months. Mr. Jones asked if it would be completed in this fiscal year. Mr. Olenik said it would. Mr. Westmoreland asked what the fifteen year data was. Mr. Olenik said they have taken the saturation maps that TxDOT has, just the raw paper form, and have put it into the GIS networks that we all share and hopefully it would be information you can pull from to pick up on trends and growth and be able to move around the County wherever this information has been made available and pick up on all the years of saturation data. Ms. Reed asked if they would be interested in continuing that and putting on all the right of way. Mr. McCay said they have very little in the County.

TxDOT

Mr. Warren said that primarily on the Northwest Passage project that Ms. Reed was talking about, a value engineering study was completed on it last week, required by the Federal government for any mobility project over \$25 million, and it went very well. Mr. Warren said they tore that project up and down and ripped it apart and looked at it and decided they have a pretty good project. He said there is some tweaking they are doing to improve it. Mr. Warren said the biggest result of it was they really scrubbed the estimate and discovered that there were some numbers in the estimate that were a couple of years old when steel, concrete, and asphalt prices were going through the roof. He said as a result the project would not cost anywhere close to \$40 million dollars. He said that sounds good except that it is funded entirely with economic stimulus funds and local funds from the City of Lubbock and they have been told, as of yesterday, any changes in economic stimulus funding, either up or down, will require TPC action.

Mr. Warren said that he and Mr. Eichorst are going to Austin Thursday to meet with John Barton and David Casteel about another project but they will talk about this as well. He said they feel it is their duty to let them know early if they are going to need all \$26.5 million that was awarded by the Commission. What they are going to push him to do is fund the Plan B project with that which is Slide from Marshall to U.S. 84. Mr. Jones said that is their intent anyway. Mr. Warren said there is a question on Plan B. Does it stay in the District if there is an under run or does it go to the Region. Mr. Warren said he doesn't remember. Mr. Warren said he could say if they just left it like it is and went to bid it would probably come in about \$7 million under what is allocated which means Austin would then be scrambling to spend that \$7 million quickly because that is the money that has to be spent within the first 120 days. Mr. Warren said they feel like they have to let him know now. Mr. Warren said the other topic of the conference call yesterday was verifying what was submitted with DCIS and he is waiting to get that list from Austin to make sure.

Mr. Warren felt that the first step is to try to direct it towards that project, but the question is when can that project be ready. Ms. Reed asked when it had to be spent. Mr. Warren said he doesn't see any way you could ever have it ready to go by June. Mr. Warren said that will be what they will tell Mr. Barton is that it can't be spent in the first 120 days but it can sure be spent in the next period. Mr. Warren said his fear is that they are going to say all this money has to be spent in the first 120 days, thanks for the \$7 million; we are going to put it into another project. Mr. Jones said he feels that is exactly what he thinks will happen and Mr. Barton will say the first priority is going to fall to the Region and if the Region can't use it then it would go to the State and if the State can't use it, then it will come back to the public. Mr. Warren said the reason he is bringing it up was in case Mr. Jones was not planning on having a policy meeting this month. He said we need to have one as the funding has been changed. Mr. Jones said that the MPO is having a TPC meeting. Mr. Warren said the last thing Mr. Eichorst told him was depending on the answer they get they are not going to tread lightly as they tell Mr. Barton about it. If Mr. Barton says flat out, nope you are not going to get any of it, we are going to lean towards jacking the estimates back up where they thought they would be and take bids and see what happens. Mr. Warren said that in this situation if you know you are getting more money than you can use, with the connections to the economic stimulus package and the fact that these funds have to be expended quickly it

needs to be told. Mr. Warren said it was not bad news and that it would be worse news if it was \$7 million higher. Mr. Warren said we would still get the same projects. Ms. Reed said the City of Lubbock would offer to reduce their portion. Mr. Warren said he is very aware of that and expects to hear that from the City. Mr. Westmoreland asked if the Commission could up their percentage. Mr. Warren said it is not a match but an allocation of X number of dollars. Mr. Warren said his guess was that Mr. Barton would say, great give me the \$7 million back but he needs to get the information on North Slide and they will push for that one as it would be a bonus to get that one funded. Mr. Warren said he does not remember what the estimated cost was. Mr. Warren said it has been sent to Mr. Barton and Mr. Cash has it set up in DCIS. Mr. Warren said in the conference call it was said that they will send out this list of MPO projects to the Districts and have them verify everything. He said hopefully he will get that before they go Thursday so Mr. Warren will feel comfortable telling them we do have a project that we can spend that money on in the one year period.

Mr. McCay asked what if Mr. Barton said just don't tell me that, would you then be able to apply that \$7 million towards the project. Mr. Warren said it would go back to the State and that is why they are torn on whether to tell Mr. Barton or not because there is going to be money that does not get spent by June unless everything comes in over like they thought would happen. He said last month they had their first round of economic stimulus projects with the rehab jobs around the state and they came in 32% under statewide so they have another \$160 million they have to get out on other projects, which is good, but they sure didn't expect that. Mr. Henson asked Mr. Warren if their credibility gets dinged. Mr. Warren said probably with the City of Lubbock it does, as it looks like we have led them down a path and that is not the case. Mr. Henson said he meant with the "big boys". Mr. Warren said he didn't think so as they had a value engineering study and as a result were able to save money. Ms. Reed said they are seeing the same thing in projects coming in under. Mr. Warren said construction prices have gone down so much. Mr. Warren said this estimate was done back when China was building everything and costs were up there. Mr. Warren said he has told his designers to keep padding that because he wants to make sure we are covered because there is no more money for it.

Mr. McCay said the construction companies were pretty picky and choosy but it seems now they are hungry. Mr. Warren said he expects bid prices to go back up some because of the volume of projects they are putting out there. Mr. Warren said he will know more after the meeting on Thursday but that we would need to have a TPC meeting because if we reduce that amount the TPC has to approve it. Mr. Warren said he feels bad but actually it is good news as we are getting the same project for less money. Mr. Jones said it is just that we want to be able to capture that \$7 million dollars for ourselves. Mr. Warren said he is going to suggest to Mr. Barton that if we need to spend that full \$26.5 million in June we can sure do it and hit the City of Lubbock for the remainder.

Ms. Reed said that honestly their agreement with Mr. Saenz was that they would pay for Slide Road and then when you ran the estimates on the rest of it the City said they would pay the million but if we are talking several million difference between the cost of the Slide Road bridge and what the new estimates are, that could be an issue because that was not the original agreement. Mr. Warren said he was not in that meeting and that he was told that Mr. Saenz said TxDOT would build the project if the City of Lubbock would put \$25 million in it. Mr. Warren said that Mr. Saenz is not involved in this at this point, he is just afraid if it ever gets to Mr. Saenz that is the way that he will remember it. Mr. Warren said he felt it might make sense to Mr. Barton if we get him to realize it is not letting the City off the hook but that they would put it into Slide Road at your own pace. Ms. Reed said that would free that money up. Mr. Warren agreed and said it would make more sense and TxDOT could put all the Commission money on this project, the City would only spend about \$6 million on it and then have the money left over to do the Marshall/U.S. 84 project. Mr. Warren said he and Mr. Eichorst would have a strategy session on the way to Austin to decide the best way to present it to keep as much money here in Lubbock as is possible, and at the same time there is a responsibility to Austin to spend the economic stimulus funds in the required time frame.

Mr. Warren said Phase 4 has been moved to a July letting instead of June. He said to this date nothing has happened so as far as he knows it is still scheduled to go in July. He said the West Loop is scheduled in January and then they will be back to just patching for a while. Mr. Henson asked in the West Loop study where the 4th Street Bridge is. Mr. Warren said it is in the Northwest Passage. Mr. Henson said as a citizen getting the area of Jones stadium open is just wonderful. Mr. Warren said that project should be completely open from one end to the other in a couple of weeks and Marsha Sharp Freeway 3B, which is the Slide and 34th interchange, about another year. Mr. Warren said they are going to start the preliminary engineering on Phase 5 in the fall, in house, and go ahead and get the environmental work going on that. Mr. Warren said there are no projections of funding anywhere in the near future for it, but there was not projection of funding for any of Marsha Sharp either when we started so we are going to try and position ourselves to have that ready to go in case funding becomes available.

Mr. Jones said that Mr. Cash told him the other day that the consultant is working on the Outer Loop Study. Mr. Warren said he finally got the authorization signed and ready to go so Mactek Engineering is ready to kick off. He said that one of the first things they plan to do is to sit down with various people and get the stakeholders involved, especially the City of Lubbock and Lubbock County. Mr. Warren said that the question is how many other small communities in Lubbock County do they want to get involved and at the table for that. He said they haven't had a chance to hash that out. He said they are good to go. Ms. Drewell asked what was involved in the study. Mr. Warren said the consultant contract is just to do a feasibility study for the need of an Outer Loop to handle traffic in the next thirty years. He said as budget cuts hit they had to reduce the scope of that to just the south and west portions instead of a full Loop all around Lubbock. He said the initial study would be from basically Shallowater around to Slaton and would not determine a route, but to determine what type of facility is needed. If it is determined that we need a freeway type facility, then TxDOT will do the route study in house to determine a route.

Citibus

Ms. Harvey said they are trying to enlarge their parking lot that the buses use and that involves closing 8th Street. She said that would be going to the next Council meeting for final approval to close 8th Street between Buddy Holly and Texas Avenue. She said the notice to proceed to the contractor is contingent upon the date of the closure of 8th Street so hopefully late in the afternoon of the 15th of May he will get started on that project, which will initially include a little work on the bus wash building and its connection to Buddy Holly and then they will move into the main part of the construction of the parking lot.

Ms. Harvey said that the last time she reported Citibus had started on their economic stimulus projects except the purchase of Para transit vans. She said since the last meeting Council has awarded that contract and the vans are in production now. Ms. Harvey said they are about to finish spending all of their economic stimulus money.

Texas Tech

Ms. Drewell said that they are trying to do stuff on the east and north side of the stadium. She said they have a meeting this afternoon with Ms. Reed and TxDOT for the parking lot in front of the auditorium and coliseum at Canton. She said there is a turnout that empties onto the frontage road and they will discuss that.

Ms. Drewell said they will go to the board this week with their five year projection of projects. She said they turn that into the State by the end of June. She said there are a couple of projects at HSC where they want to renovate some space for a cancer research lab and another project is to create a clinical simulation center in the facility. She said in Amarillo the research facility is open and the 5th floor addition to the Allied Health Building is now open and they are working on the pharmacy addition. She said San Angelo has several projects.

Director's Report

Mr. Jones stated that the MPO continues to get letters of endorsement for the leg of the Marsha Sharp Freeway, known as Phase 6, to East Loop 289. Mr. Jones stated that in the past week we have received five letters. Mr. Warren asked if any of these letters were from people who actually lived in the part of town in question. Mr. Jones stated they were not. Mr. Jones said even the Chair got a letter.

Mr. Jones said that Mr. Warren already gave a good status report and he would simply echo one thing that Mr. Warren said that Mr. Barton told them. He said the week of the 20th the State took bids on 127 projects and on the average the capacity/mobility projects came in about 20% under estimate and the maintenance type projects came in anywhere from 25 to 35%. He said Mr. Barton was delighted and that savings are what they are scrambling to try to spend in the 120 day window. He said the emphasis is to look at everyone's Plan B projects which they have already taken to the Commission. The Commission endorsed that list. Notwithstanding right-of-way issues or the like, those projects are ready to go if they get the money.

Mr. Jones said that the MPO is going to participate on May 14, 2009 with Ports to Plains and Foreign Trade Zone 260 in the Business Expo. He said we will have the booth immediately south of the door as you come into the building. Mr. Jones said to come by and say hello and if you spend much time there we may put you in the booth with a badge. The Expo will be from 8-5.

Ms. Drewell said that Texas Tech put in two requests into Congressman Neugebauer's Office for transportation reauthorization funds. She said one was to complete Texas Tech Parkway as it was originally designed which includes full illumination, joint use of bike/pedestrian paths, and other stuff that was left out. That project was for \$7 million. She said the second project that they put in had to do with a transfer facility which would be a parking structure that would be between University and Akron at 15th Street. She said it would have approximately 1,000 to 1,200 parking spaces with bus turnouts. She said there are fixed routes that go through there and there are a lot of employees that use the routes and it would also serve the internal routes as well.

Meeting Adjourned.

Mr. McCay adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.