

**Minutes Of The
Transportation Advisory Committee
Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization
June 2, 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 June 2, 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
Jerry Cash, TxDOT – Lubbock
Sharmon Owens, City of Lubbock
Melinda Harvey, Citibus
Nick Olenik, Lubbock County
Randy Henson, City of Lubbock
Frankie Pittman, City of Wolfforth
Warren Warner, Foreign Trade Zone 260

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 2:00 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 May 5, 2009 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Mr. McCay asked for any corrections to the May 5, 2009 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Jerry Cash made motion to approve the May 5, 2009 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee. Randy Henson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Presentation, discussion, and action on the Draft FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program.

Mr. Jones said that the Transportation Policy Committee approved the budget at their May 19, 2009 meeting. The budget was approved at \$561,061. There is a \$146,308 carryover that has not been programmed. Those are \$55,000 for the Planning Department, \$7,000 for Traffic Engineering and \$60,000 for Citibus.

The MPO recommendations are listed on the attached sheet in the backup material. They include an additional \$5,000 for the Planning Department, \$20,000 in additional funding to Citibus to help them complete a Comprehensive Route Study, \$58,746 to TxDOT to complete Phase 2 of the South Loop Study and a \$62,582 contingency for the Lubbock MPO. Mr. Jones stated that the TAC can take whatever action they choose from the MPO recommendation. Mr. Jones stated that

the additional \$20,000 for Citibus and the \$58,746 to TxDOT could be put into the aerial photography project. The reason the MPO did not put any funding into the aerial photography project was due to the fact that the request was for \$200,000 and the MPO would not be able to fund that amount.

The rationale for the increase for Planning is because they host and maintain the database used for the MPO's traffic demand model. The rationale for the increase to Citibus is to help them perform a Comprehensive Route Study to determine if they are really serving their clientele. John Wilson hopes to be able to replace their on-going allocation (\$60,000) with new money from a new highway bill during this budget cycle. Mr. Jones stated that the aerial photography project is important as well, but it is a big project and the MPO didn't feel that the amount that they could contribute would make a significant impact on that project even on a two year basis.

In FY 2009 the TPC approved \$36,000 to Traffic Engineering for a Permanent Traffic Counter. This project has been delayed as they were waiting to hire a Traffic Engineer before beginning the project. The MPO has requested that this amount be carried over to FY 2010 to allow Traffic Engineering to complete the project in the coming budget year.

Mr. Jones said that the South Loop project is also important. The first phase of the project determined that it might be better suited to convert the ramps from a diamond to an X pattern due to some level of service issues on the Loop. This change, however, would put additional traffic on the frontage roads and increase the traffic at intersections. The second phase of this project would determine what might be done to deal with the congestion on the frontage roads and at the intersections.

Mr. McCay stated that it is difficult to divide funding to meet the needs. Mr. McCay felt that the contingency for the MPO was critical. He stated that all of the projects submitted are critical. Mr. McCay said that the aerial photography is very important but would be a huge amount. Mr. Henson stated that a comment made by City Council referred to the fact that once you get past 98th Street there are five miles of FM 1585 where aeriels are lacking. Mr. Henson said that there are missing areas in Northwest Lubbock as well.

Ms. Reed said that she had some questions. She appreciated the work that the MPO has done in putting the budget together but wondered on the South Loop Study what would be the scope. She wondered if the money was to pay Texas Tech to do the study. Mr. Cash said that part of the money was to look at some public education towards a "move left" campaign. Ms. Reed stated that she felt the project was important, however, she felt that it might be premature. Ms. Reed felt that even if the study were complete, the ramp reversals are not funded at this time and that it might be better suited to wait at least one more year before that study should be done.

Ms. Reed stated that she felt it was more important to get the aerial photography project started. Mr. McCay asked if the highest count of accidents were on the south Loop. Ms. Owens said that the numbers were higher but by percentage they were not high, just had more of traffic flow. Mr. McCay asked if the ramp reversal would help those accidents. Mr. Cash said that it would help reduce accidents on the Loop but would put more traffic on the frontage roads. Ms. Owens said that signal timing would alleviate some of the issues. Mr. Cash said that it is hard to balance the turning lanes on the frontage roads and it would be ideal to have a dedicated lane that continues on and there is currently no latitude for that. Ms. Reed stated that TxDOT and the City of Lubbock could work together to see if minor changes could be made. She stated the City of Lubbock is also looking at new access management.

Mr. McCay said these are all good points and that the aerial photography is important. He said that it would take all the funding to have any impact on the cost of the project. He stated that most of the calls he gets are for traffic safety. He said that the study to improve the South Loop is worth every penny. Ms. Harvey asked what would happen if the aerial photography project was not funded. Mr. Jones stated that the project would be at the mercy of the City Council. Ms. Reed

stated that alternative did not look good. Ms. Owens said they have provided Texas Tech with the criteria but do not have the resources to do the study. She stated that the study showed weaving happens on the frontage roads and there are more collisions but not the high speed collisions that happen on the Loop. Mr. Henson stated that weaving occurs regardless. Mr. Cash agreed.

Ms. Owens said they would work with Civil Engineering at Tech and that one of the students works in the Traffic Management Center. She asked if Traffic Engineering did not utilize the entire \$36,000 for the Permanent Traffic Counter what would happen to the remainder of the funds. Mr. Jones stated they would drop to fund balance and could be reallocated by amending the UPWP.

Ms. Owens asked if the Citibus study could be done in house. Ms. Harvey stated that they want to hire a consultant as a study has not been done since 1991 and there are unmet needs for service through the City. She stated that at this point they are not proud of the services they offer and the consultant could give them an idea of what changes they could make for improvements. Ms. Harvey stated that Citibus believes they might get some of their operating funds back and want to be ready to move on a plan if that occurs.

Ms. Reed asked Mr. Cash when they could see construction on the ramp changes. Mr. Cash stated that it would have to be planned. Ms. Reed thought it might not occur for five to ten years. Mr. Cash stated it would be "needs based" and that they would look at it in the long term. Mr. Cash said he couldn't commit to when that might be. He said the public education part of the project could be done immediately.

Mr. Henson asked if Mr. Olenik used the center line. Mr. Olenik said they do use the information for pavement management. Mr. Henson said that everybody uses the aerial photographs. He said the south Loop is a mess and that they could study it for ten years but he feels that with the opening of the Marsha Sharp Freeway some of that traffic will be pulled off the Loop. Mr. McCay said that the Marsha Sharp Freeway would not impact his use of the Loop. Mr. Cash stated that major businesses are still along the Loop.

Mr. Jones asked if the MPO put in \$60,000 if that would make any impact. Ms. Reed said she felt that it could. She said that it is to be a capital project and that Storm Water and Water Utilities would be putting in a large share of the project. Mr. McCay asked what the total of the project was. Ms. Reed stated that it is over one million over a two year period. Mr. Olenik asked how far out of the City the aerials would go. Ms. Reed and Mr. Henson said they would cover the MPO boundary and almost to the county line. Ms. Reed asked if the public education portion of the TxDOT project could be done before the Phase 2 study was complete. Mr. Cash said that would be a question for Mr. Phillips.

Marsha Reed made motion to increase the amount of funding to the City of Lubbock Planning Department by \$5,000 and increase the amount of funding to Citibus by \$20,000 and put \$60,000 into the Aerial Photography project. No funding would be given to TxDOT for the South Loop study and \$1,254.00 would be taken from the contingency amount of the MPO to complete the \$60,000. Nick Olenik seconded and the motion passed with one dissenting vote by Mr. Jerry Cash.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Reports

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

Cities and Counties

City of Wolfforth

Ms. Pittman announced that she would only be attending a few more of the Transportation Advisory Committee meetings as she would retire soon. She said that the individual who is taking her place would be attending with her in the coming meetings. The TAC congratulated Ms. Pittman on her upcoming retirement.

TxDOT

Mr. Cash said that the Northwest Passage project would go to bid next week, hopefully on the 9th or 10th of the month. Mr. Cash said that at this time Phase 4 is on hold as the Prop 14 funding is still in question.

Citibus

Ms. Harvey stated that Citibus is starting the parking lot construction and that 8th Street is now officially closed. She stated that Citibus also got the grant executed for additional stimulus funds.

Director's Report

Mr. Jones said that he had spoken with Mr. Eichorst regarding the Prop 14 funding and even though it has been "postponed" at this point it has not been "cancelled" so there is still hope.

There is also an opportunity to make application for the Secretary's "Tiger" funding in case the Prop 14 funding does not come through. Mr. Jones said the final rules have not yet been issued.

Mr. Jones said that Senate Bill 855 for "local option" is dead in the water along with the Sunset Bill. He stated it is likely that the Governor will call a special session for the unfinished legislative business.

Meeting Adjourned.

Mr. McCay adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.