

**Minutes Of The
Transportation Advisory Committee
Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization
April 6, 2010**

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 6, 2010. 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
Jerry Cash, TxDOT – Lubbock
Sharmon Owens, City of Lubbock
Chris Mandrell, Citibus
Darrell Newsom, City of Wolfforth
Larry Hertel, City of Lubbock
Randy Henson, City of Lubbock
Nick Olenik, Lubbock County

Visitors/Staff: David Jones, Lubbock MPO
Tera Davis, 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. Mr. McCay welcomed Chris Mandrell who will be the new Citibus representative.

Approval of the January 5, 2010 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Mr. McCay asked for any corrections to the January 5, 2010 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Jerry Cash made motion to approve the January 5, 2010 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee. Darrell Newsom seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Discuss and take action on FY 2010 Category 7 Underruns.

Mr. McCay said that there is some money, approximately one million dollars, of Category 7 funding that will become available that must be used prior to the end of this fiscal year. Mr. McCay said that there is a recommendation from the Lubbock TxDOT District to resurface the South Loop frontage roads between Slide Road and IH-27. Mr. McCay stated that since Category 7 expenditures need concurrence of the MPO this agenda item contemplates a brainstorming session to ensure that this committee reviews all available options and that we make a recommendation to the Transportation Policy Committee.

Mr. McCay said the different options that are available are listed on the sheet that Mr. Jones provided. Mr. Jones wanted to explain where the options on the list came from. Mr. Jones said that when Mr. Warren contacted him to advise that the money leftover from the current fiscal year operations would be available, Mr. Jones and Mr. Warren began a dialog about what could be done with the money. The MPO needs to have some input in as much as it is allocated to the MPO. Mr. Jones stated that in order to do due diligence and make a recommendation to the TPC, he began to talk to others about what the money might best be used for and that is where the list began to take shape. Mr. Jones explained that he did not intend the list to be all inclusive and if there is any input in today's meeting about other projects please put them out on the table. Mr. Jones stated that Mr. Cash is available to determine whether the projects suggested would be eligible for the Cat 7 money.

Mr. McCay explained that the projects must be "shovel ready", within the MPO boundary and functionally classed above level five. Mr. Cash explained that to make an August letting the plans have to be in Austin by May 20th. Mr. Jones said that is the very reason why several of the projects on the list would not work. He said it is a timing issue. Mr. Jones said that Mr. Warren's recommendation was to do a chip-seal on the frontage roads of the south Loop from Slide Road to the Interstate. He said it is an easy project and most of the plans are complete. Mr. Cash said they will be complete by May and perhaps before the earlier deadline of April 17th. He said if the plans are submitted by April 17th there could be a July letting.

Mr. Jones said that one project that might be interesting to pursue discussion on is the first one on the list, Phase 2 of the Intelligent Transportation System project. Mr. Jones said that from his and Ms. Reed's conversation, Phase 2 basically is a project to install fiber from the Jones AT&T stadium to City Hall. Ms. Reed said Phase 2 included several other things like dynamic message boards along the Marsha Sharp Freeway. Ms. Owens remembered Phase 2 to be design and construction from Municipal Square to City Hall, up Avenue P to 50th Street where TxDOT would then come from their site and meet. Mr. Jones said even at that there is still a timing issue and didn't feel we could have anything to bid but said that both Mr. Warren and Mr. Cash feel that it is a good project that needs to continue to be discussed and possibly get it ready for the next round of funding. Mr. Cash said they would probably have around three million in Category 7 next year and it will have the same issues. Mr. Cash said that he understands that technology is changing now and there might be some problems with that.

Mr. Jones said there were a couple of other projects, suggested by Mr. McCay, that he and Mr. Olenik found that timing again would be an issue. He stated that not only is time an issue, but the project that is eligible, Woodrow Road, the environmental requirement is a problem in itself as the document could not be done in time. Mr. Jones said that if the TAC has any suggestions they should be talked about as we might have missed some through the MTP process that we might want to think about changing priorities of the projects and put them in the TIP and amend the MTP as we go forward so that we would have projects to work towards in the next year and the year after. Mr. Henson asked about the condition of the service roads. Mr. Cash said they need to be resurfaced. He said they were going to seal-coat them this year and with the Nova Chip they are getting a better quality product. Mr. Cash said it would not take long to do the plans.

Mr. Cash said that there is a high traffic volume on the frontage roads versus Woodrow Road. He said that Woodrow Road needs something done, but the timing is wrong. Ms. Reed asked if TxDOT had not just seal-coated the frontage roads. Mr. Cash said it has been a while and that these roads get a great deal of traffic that causes them to deteriorate quickly. Ms. Owens asked if the ramp reversals were included in this project. Mr. Cash said that he doubted that they are included. Mr. Cash said it is a good solution for this time frame and feels that there will be some money next year and said it is a good idea to get small projects ready. He said the two choices would be to bankroll for three years and do a ten million dollar widening project or smaller projects as the money is available. Mr. McCay asked if the money was spent to resurface these roads, what other projects would be done with the money that is freed up. Mr. Cash said it just frees up some of TxDOT's seal-coat money. Ms. Reed said that Category 7 is really mobility

funds and didn't feel like it should be used for maintenance. Mr. Cash said that Category 7 is not just mobility but includes rehabilitation. Mr. Cash said it is called mobility but does include rehabilitation.

Mr. McCay said that Woodrow Road and Indiana are out. Mr. Cash said Indiana is out because it is a functional class five. Mr. McCay said environmental has to be done for Woodrow Road even if it is just to be widened. Mr. Cash agreed and added there might also be some utility adjustments. He said when he talked to Mr. Olenik he stated there are two options, one to do under Category 7 or under a safety project, but you have to submit it and it has to rank statewide. He said it is a 90/10 split. Mr. Henson said we turned that in a few years ago and it didn't make the list. Mr. Cash said you have to have a SSI with a safety factor cost benefit of almost two. He said the criteria means there has to be a fatality on that road. Mr. McCay said that he and Mr. Olenik had discussed Milwaukee but it has the same issues. Mr. Cash said Milwaukee might be fully funded with Category 2. Mr. Henson asked what part of Milwaukee. Mr. Cash said Milwaukee and Spur 327. Mr. Henson said if we free up money doing Nova Chip on the south Loop will the other seal-coat money go into the Lubbock District. Mr. Cash said the money stays in the Lubbock District which encompasses seventeen counties.

Mr. McCay said that there is not enough time for Phase 2 of the ITS to be viable. Mr. Cash said that Austin really wants "pennies to the pavement". Mr. McCay said if that is the case then we should strike the Outer Route Study as well as the traffic signals from the list of possible projects. Mr. McCay asked about the North Quaker and the Loop bridge design. As it is only "design" it was scratched. Mr. McCay asked about West 4th Street, Upland to Frankford. Mr. Cash said he believes the plans are complete on this project. Mr. Hertel pointed out that it would cost more than one million dollars. Mr. Jones said the estimate is around eleven million.

Mr. McCay asked about the widening of the south part of Slide Road. Mr. Cash said here is a right-of-way problem and TxDOT has no right-of-way budget. Mr. Hertel asked if the million could be used to get it. Mr. Cash stated that he didn't think one million would cover that cost. Mr. Cash said the money could be rolled over to next year but the way things are going if there is a million dollars sitting around it will likely be taken away. Mr. Henson asked if there was anything on the list where the money could be spent. Mr. Cash stated that he did not see anything. Mr. Olenik asked if the City of Lubbock didn't come to the table recently with some funding on a project that is being done. Ms. Reed said they did the Northwest Passage, Loop and Slide projects. She said there is also City funding in the West Loop project. Mr. Olenik asked if the money could be applied to that and give the City back some of their money. Mr. Cash stated that the reason the project was funded was due to the fact that the City used local funding as leverage. He stated the City is contractually obligated. Ms. Reed said they did get back money on the West Loop. Mr. Cash told Mr. Henson that the only project he felt could be used on the list was West 4th Street. Ms. Reed asked how the rest of it would be paid for. Mr. Cash said the reason why 4th Street was held up was because Mr. Hopmann did not want 19th and 4th torn up at the same time. He stated that 19th has been done for a long time and they are still trying to get 4th Street complete and they are about to tear 19th Street up again.

Mr. Hertel asked again if it was possible to use the money to do the fiber. Mr. Cash stated that it was eligible and thought that the project was funded for 2012. Mr. Cash said the issue has been the fact that the technology is changing in Austin and that might be a drawback. He said he felt the technology they had would be obsolete. Ms. Owens said that technology is advancing all the time but we can still use what we have. Mr. Cash said he didn't know all the facts at this time. Ms. Reed said there are actually two issues, the fiber that needs continual connections and the dynamic message signs that have been planned for the freeway. She said there is not enough money to do dynamic message signs. Mr. Cash said the one he is thinking about is about one and a half million dollars. Mr. Cash said it is a possibility and we could roll the cash over to next year but feels that we have one project ready to go now that the money could be used for.

Mr. McCay asked about the additional contribution to stimulus projects. Mr. Jones said that wouldn't work because all the contracts are in place and the City has already committed. Mr. McCay asked about Plan B, North Slide Road, Marshall to US 84. Mr. Jones said we pulled Plan B off because at a recent meeting the Mayor stated they were not going to fool with it any more. Ms. Reed said that it was more that TxDOT didn't sign the contract and Delbert McDougal said he is not signing an open-ended contract so the City is not going to either. Ms. Reed said the City is still behind the project the way it was planned. Ms. Reed said it is a six or seven million dollar project. It is environmentally clear and could be done but the City is not putting money into it right now.

Mr. McCay asked about an additional contribution to Phase 5 Bridge. Mr. Cash said it might be fully funded with Category 2 funding but we don't know yet. He said it is "funded" right now with several different types of funding. Mr. Jones reminded that it was the project that they went to the Cat 2 trade fair with and it might be fully funded so we can pull that project off.

Mr. Olenik asked if there were any more City projects on the shelf. Mr. Hertel said the Northwest Passage is really the only thing they have environmentally clear. Mr. McCay asked for any additional suggestions.

Mr. Cash made a motion that the Transportation Advisory Committee forward a recommendation to resurface the South Loop frontage roads between Slide Road and IH-27 to the Transportation Policy Committee. Mr. Henson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Reed said she wanted to make a comment. Ms. Reed said that she heard Mr. Warren make a comment yesterday and that Mr. Cash made the same comment today that "Austin is not going to like that as they want pennies to the pavement". She said if this is designated MPO Category 7 funds either the MPO is going to have a vote or they are not and to say "well you can vote on it but Austin is not going to like it" is a problem to her. Mr. Cash agreed and said that Category 7 is MPO and the projects should be chosen by the MPO. Ms. Reed said that the MPO does not work for Austin even though TxDOT does. Mr. Cash stated that he understands and that he is "brainwashed" now too and he fights it pretty hard himself. Ms. Reed said maybe Mr. Jones could pass her comment along. Mr. Jones said he would champion her message.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Discuss and take action on the Draft FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Jones stated that the TAC has just been through the experience of revising the Metropolitan Transportation Plan in order that we come into fiscal constraint per the State's directive. The next step of the process is to create a new four year window to the next document, which is the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that establishes your work plan basically for the next four years out of the larger twenty year planning document.

Mr. Jones stated the four years that we are working on is FY 2011 – 2014. Mr. Jones explained that included in the packet is a really rough draft of the document. He stated that we apologize for sending such a rough draft of the document but timing is an issue. Mr. Jones said he went to a meeting last week and the State is holding hard and fast to their timeline of having their new Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) done by June. In order for us to accomplish all of the milestones that are provided for in the law, we need to start the process right now. He said everyone else in the State is also scrambling to get their TIPs done.

Mr. Jones said his plan of attack is to ask for the TAC to help us and it can be done in short order as far as the editorial comments are concerned. He said all you need to do when you look at the plan is look at it in terms of the projects. He stated that all we are doing is lifting out all the projects in the four year window from the MTP and dropping them into the TIP by program year.

Mr. Jones pointed out the priority projects from the MTP which has already been approved. He said when you flip to the project listings you will see where the projects were lifted from the MTP and put into the proper year in the TIP document. Mr. Jones said the TIP is the plan of work for the next four years. Mr. Jones stated that FY 2011 and FY 2012 are local projects. The first state project is in 2014. He said that it is really a simple plan.

Mr. Jones went through the document and assigned sections of the verbiage to the various entities. Mr. Jones asked that everyone return their sections by mid next week at the latest to allow us time to reassemble the information and get it back out to the members prior to the Policy Meeting. Ms. Reed asked if the local projects had to be included in the TIP. Mr. Jones stated that we are required to list them and the projects were taken from the prioritized list of the MTP. Ms. Reed was concerned that these projects have not yet been before the City Council for approval into the City's budget and was concerned that some of the TPC also sit on the Council. Mr. Jones stated that if there comes a point in time where the City changes the numbers on the projects, we will have to amend our budget. Mr. Jones said they may have the same question.

Mr. Heinrich made motion to authorize the draft Transportation Improvement Program FY 2011 – 2014 to go forward, contingent upon revising the text and tables to bring them current and inserting the other required plates to complete the document to the Transportation Policy Committee. Mr. Cash seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Reports

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

TxDOT

Cities and Counties

City of Wolfforth

Mr. Newsom said there was a ribbon cutting at the C-bar Café. He said it was well attended. The EDC voted to approve the remodeling of the old city hall for a training facility. He said they will be able to use it for the fire academies, EMS academies and that type of thing. He said they are remodeling it and it will be a classroom facility. He hopes it gives downtown a new look. He said that SPAG is planning on using it as well. .

Lubbock County

Mr. Olenik said they are struggling to keep their roads together.

Citibus

Mr. Mandrell said that the Fixed Route Study was pulled off the table for now. He said as far as they understand it was due to budgetary concerns. He said they are optimistic that they will be able to get it done, especially for Route 12. He said it may be next fiscal year. He said FY 2011 will have a mandatory boarding study. He said it has been shelved for now.

He said with the new hybrid buses they are looking at a 53% savings compared to the buses that were replaced. He said they are really helping out with the budget.

He said they are working on the construction documents for Downtown Transfer Plaza renovation. He said they are waiting to hear from TxDOT about their grant to have the project funded and hope they will hear in early June.

Director's Report

Mr. Jones said he gave everyone a copy of an announcement from the DOT and EPA regarding the new fuel economy standards and first ever Greenhouse Gas Emission Levels for passenger cars and light trucks through model year 2016. Mr. Jones said it generally requires auto makers to improve fleet-wide fuel economy by approximately five percent a year up to an estimated 34.1 miles per gallon for the combined industry wide fleet for model year 2016 and reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 250 grams of carbon dioxide per mile which is equivalent to approximately 35.5 miles per gallon if all reductions come from fuel economy improvements. He said while this might be grand in the big scheme of things as far as fuel economy is concerned, and perhaps the reduction of the consumption of oil, it doesn't do anything for the transportation fund. It continues to take a hit and with this policy it will get worse and sooner or later Congress is going to have to do something about a new way to fund the trust fund such as vehicle miles traveled or some other assessment in that regard. He said this was reinforced to him at a meeting he went to where HUD, DOT and EPA now have partnered and are going around the country promoting their sustainability and livability program which basically says we are going to place our emphasis on building the environment you live in up instead of out so you can ride bicycles to work or walk to work or use mass transit and light rail. He said this is all coming out of the White House. Mr. McCay said the director of TxDOT mentioned they had developed twelve or fifteen alternate funding sources at TxDOT that they have presented to the legislature this past session.

Meeting Adjourned.

Mr. McCay adjourned the meeting at 303 p.m.