

Minutes
of the
Transportation Policy Committee
Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization
March 17, 2009

The meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee of the Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization was held in Room 103 at 1625 13th Street, at 8:30 a.m. on March 17, 2009.

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

John Leonard, City Council, City of Lubbock
Patti Jones, Commissioner, Lubbock County
Tom Head, County Judge, Lubbock County
L.C. Childers, Mayor, City of Wolfforth
Doug Eichorst, District Engineer – TxDOT Lubbock
John Wilson, General Manager, Citibus

Visitors/Staff: David Jones, Lubbock MPO
Darrell Westmoreland, Lubbock MPO
Tera Davis, Lubbock MPO
Diane Lann, TxDOT - Austin
Steve Warren, Director of Transportation Planning & Development, TxDOT-Lubbock
Mitch Satterwhite, Attorney's Office, City of Lubbock
Sharmon Owens, Traffic Engineering, City of Lubbock
Nick Olenik, Director of Public Works, Lubbock County

Call to Order.

Mr. Leonard called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Acknowledgement of Quorum by Chairman.

Mr. Leonard acknowledged a quorum of the Transportation Policy Committee.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Public Comment Opportunity / Acknowledgment of Guests

Mr. Leonard welcomed Doug Eichorst, the District Engineer for the Lubbock District of TxDOT to the Transportation Policy Committee. Mr. Leonard also welcomed Nick Olenik, Director of Public Works, as a guest to the meeting.

Mr. Leonard asked for any comment from the public. No comment was made.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Approval of the February 10, 2009 minutes of the Transportation Policy Committee Meeting.

Mr. Leonard asked for any corrections to the minutes. No corrections were made.

John Wilson made a motion to approve the February 10, 2009 minutes of the Transportation Policy Committee Meeting. L. C. Childers seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Discussion of the proposed amendments to the FY 2008 – 2011 Transportation Improvement Program and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2032, including administrative changes to the Transit amendments, considered for Proposition 14 and economic stimulus funding.

Mr. Jones pointed out the changes that Citibus made after the previous meeting. Mr. Wilson said the changes were made on advice of the Federal Transit Administration. Mr. Jones went over the amendments to the two Plans. No action was required on this item.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Discussion regarding public comments received during the public participation period from February 14, 2009 through the 4:00 p.m. deadline on March 16, 2009 for projects to be funded with economic stimulus funds and Proposition 14 funds.

Mr. Jones explained that nine comments were received during the public comment period for the amendments to the MTP and the TIP. Mr. Jones explained that a majority of these comments were in reference to the phase of the Marsha Sharp Freeway, that extended it to the East Loop, which was removed from the plans. There were also a couple of comments requesting that bicycle/pedestrian bridges on the South Loop be added back into the plans.

Mr. Jones stated that there were fifteen participants at the first public forum held at Patterson Library. Six of these were staff, two were bicycle representatives, one County Commissioner, a representative from the Monterey High School newspaper, two news reporters and three citizens.

Mr. Jones explained that four additional letters were received after this agenda packet was printed. Mr. Jones explained the alternatives that could be taken in response to the comments. Mr. Warren explained that the TAC had recommended the comments be acknowledged for the record and no action taken.

John Wilson made motion to receive the public comments for the amendments to the FY 2008 – 2011 Transportation Improvement Program and Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2032 into the record and take no action. L.C. Childers seconded and the motion passed unanimously

The Committee moved to the next item.

Open final Public Forum on the proposed amendments to the FY 2008 – 2011 Transportation Improvement Program and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2032 considered for economic stimulus funding and Proposition 14 funding.

Mr. Leonard opened the final public forum on the proposed amendments to the FY 2008 – 2011 Transportation Improvement Program and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2032 at 8:57 a.m.

No comments were made.

Mr. Leonard closed the final public forum at 8:58 a.m.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Discussion and action by the Transportation Policy Committee to send the proposed amendments for the FY 2008 – 2011 Transportation Improvement Program and Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2032 to the Texas Department of Transportation for inclusion in the STIP.

Mr. Jones stated that the staff of the LMPO and the TAC recommend approval of the amendments to the FY 2008 – 2011 Transportation Improvement Program and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2032 and that they forwarded them to the Texas Department of Transportation to be included in the STIP.

Patti Jones made motion to approve the proposed amendments to the FY 2008 – 2011 Transportation Improvement Program and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2032 to send to TxDOT for inclusion into the STIP. Tom Head seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and action by the Transportation Policy Committee on the certification and transparency and accountability information on the “Federal Highway Administration, Highway Infrastructure Investment” funding under the Recovery Act which is sub-allocated to MPOs pursuant to Section 133 of Title 23, United States Code.

Mr. Jones presented a certification letter for Mr. Leonard’s signature. The letter is at the request of Chairman James Oberstar, of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The requirement is for the chief executive, as appropriate, to certify that the amendments have received the full review and vetting required by law. It also states that the chief executive accepts responsibility that the investments are an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and it stipulates that the investments are contained in the Texas STIP. It was requested that these amendments be returned no later than April 4, 2009.

John Wilson made motion to approve the Executive Certificate for Mr. Leonard’s signature. L. C. Childers seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

- A. TxDOT**
 - Reception for Doug Eichorst
 - Second Call for Projects Economic Stimulus – Plan B
 - Pass-Through funding
- B. Cities and Counties**
 - City of Lubbock – Response to Plan B
- C. Director’s**
 - Agenda Packet Changes
 - Fred Underwood reappointed to the Texas Transportation Commission
 - Minute Order
 - Chamber Business Expo
 - Article on VMT

TxDOT

Mr. Warren reminded the TPC of the reception for Randy Hopmann and Doug Eichorst at the Lubbock Club. The reception is to wish Mr. Hopmann the best in his new position and to welcome Lubbock’s new District Engineer. It will be held on March 26, 2009 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Warren said that the Second Call for Projects – Plan B is not really a call for projects. It is a Plan B in case any of the projects in Plan A fall off or if we are unable to meet deadlines. Mr. Warren said these

projects have already been submitted. The first project is the West 4th Street Project and the other is the North part of Slide from Marshall to Clovis Rd. Mr. Warren said these are unlikely but were submitted.

Mr. Warren said that letters were sent out last week regarding Pass-Through funding. Mr. Warren stated that he would be meeting with Marsha Reed regarding this letter. He reminded the TPC of how the City of Lubbock's negotiations with TxDOT were stopped due to funding shortages in 2007. Mr. Warren said the deadline is May 12th. He stated that the City of Lubbock would need to re-submit their applications and that construction cost only would be considered for reimbursement.

Mr. Eichorst asked if these were already a part of the MTP and therefore no action would be required by the MPO. Mr. Warren stated that was correct.

City of Lubbock

The City of Lubbock felt that the Slide Road Project, Marshall to Clovis Road, would be their preference for the Plan B submission.

Director's

Mr. Jones stated that at the request of the Transportation Policy Committee changes have been made in the agenda packets and the minutes. He stated that he would appreciate any feedback. Mr. Childers said that the tabs are great and he appreciated the changes. Mr. Jones stated that the MPO would continue to work on it.

Mr. Jones announced that Fred Underwood was reappointed to the Texas Transportation Commission for a full term which will expire in February 2015.

Mr. Jones went over the Minute Order of the Economic Stimulus Order.

Mr. Jones stated that the Chamber of Commerce is having a Business Expo. Mr. Jones said that one of the recommendations from our Certification Review was to get into the public more. Mr. Jones felt that the Expo would be an opportunity to meet that challenge. He talked to Warren Warner and Michael Reeves about the possibility of splitting the cost of a booth and they were both excited about doing so. The Expo is May 14th. Mr. Wilson thought the booths were sold out. Ms. Jones stated it was a good opportunity if there was an available booth.

Mr. Jones included an article on VMT and the Oregon experiment for the TPC to read at their pleasure.

Meeting Adjourned.

The meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee adjourned at 9:29 a.m.