

Minutes
of the
Transportation Policy Committee
Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization
September 15, 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 September 15, 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
Tom Martin, Mayor, City of Lubbock
L.C. Childers, Mayor, City of Wolfforth
Lee Ann Dumbauld, City Manager, City of Lubbock
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
Steve Warren, TxDOT-Lubbock
Mitch Satterwhite, City of Lubbock
Bryan Wilson, TxDOT - Lubbock
Sharmon Owens, City of Lubbock
Darrell Newsome, City of Wolfforth
Todd Reno, Reese Technology Center
Norma Ritz Johnson, Lubbock Chamber of Commerce
Mary Whistler, U. S. Rep. Neugebauer
George Bradley, TXARP
Jo Stone, Word Publications
Marsha Reed, city of Lubbock
Kerry Miller, Parkhill, Smith & Cooper
Nick Olenik, Lubbock County
Eddie McBride, Lubbock Chamber of Commerce
Mark Warner, TxDOT – Austin
John Horney, HNTB - Consultants

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

The Committee moved to the next item.

Approval of the August 18, 2009 minutes of the Transportation Policy Committee Meeting.

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

Patti Jones made a motion to approve the August 18, 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.

Presentation of the West Texas Rail Study by the Texas Department of Transportation.

Mr. Warner, with the Texas Department of Transportation Multi-modal Section in Austin, soon to be the Rail Division as of October 1, 2009, said this is a Regional Freight Study. Mr. Warner said a few of these have been done across the State. Mr. Warner said the studies look at freight movements in the area and any kind of bottlenecks on the highway side and particularly on the rail side to see if there were improvements that could be made. Mr. Warner said that HNTB was the consultant who did the work and Mr. John Horney with HNTB will present the program and afterwards they would answer any questions.

Mr. Horney gave a slide presentation of their study done in three of the TxDOT Districts in this region, Lubbock, Amarillo and the Midland/Odessa. He said that he would try and stay focused on the information in the Lubbock area. The objective of the study was to look at the future to look at what freight movements would be and look at truck and rail service to take care of the future needs.

Mr. Horney said the study was done in two phases, one getting inventory of what is out there, to determine what freight movements were taking place and get them projected out to year 2025 and identify what kind of bottlenecks and impediments were out there, not only today but would be developed in the future capacity. Phase 2 determined alternatives and solutions for those impediments done with alternative analysis, and developing a very preliminary plan with an economic analysis of each of those so they could rise to a level of priority with cost benefit ratio on it.

Mr. Horney spoke of bottlenecks with trucks turning and back up traffic. He said that there were several railroad at grade crossing conflicts. He said frustration was brought up with the farmers in the area because with the railroads that run through the area are primarily through trains, coming from Chicago heading to California, high capacity, warp speed trains, with the exception of a few short lines. Mr. Horney said that a lot of the farmers have to truck their products to Fort Worth or a long distance and then see them go right back through on the trains. He said during harvest season, the availability of trucks was an issue for the farmer industry.

Mr. Horney said they did an inventory of all the railroads through the area, primarily the UP and BNSF as Class 1 railroads with short lines. He said they got a summary of the area. He said with help from the railroads in this area and information from the Service and Transportation Board, they did what is called a "model" of the railroads.

Mr. Horney said Phase 2 was to look at problems and solutions. He said the criteria requirements for the Lubbock area showed the recommendations they made. Mr. Horney said that the recommendations for

Lubbock included three grade separations, U.S. 70 in Farwell, University Avenue in Lubbock and U.S. 70 in Muleshoe. Mr. Horney said there were seven grade crossing closures in the Lubbock District, four improvements plus two bypasses, one in Dumas and one in Dalhart. These are truck bypasses with no recommendations for rail bypasses. Mr. Horney said if TxDOT already had plans for improvements for others that showed up in their study, they were not included in the report.

Mr. Martin had great concerns that the study did not address what we had been waiting for regarding a north/south rail initiative. Mr. Martin said that Lubbock had asked TxDOT to look at the feasibility of doing these rail projects. Mr. Martin reminded the TPC of the meeting that were held to look at improvements and extend the rail corridor, particularly north/south through West Texas. Mr. Martin pointed out that it is an economic development issue. Mr. Martin stated that he was very disappointed in what was presented here today.

Mr. Warren stated that the study, from the beginning, was to look at the overall freight studies in West Texas and it was never intended to be just rail improvements. Mr. Warren had hoped there would be more detail in the presentation regarding those rail improvements. Mr. Warner said that a special corridor analysis could be done. Mr. Martin reminded the TPC that one of the initiatives for this study was the Ports to Plains Trade Corridor and that the Chamber of Commerce as well as the City and County has supported passenger service being restored to Lubbock with a line from Dallas/Ft. Worth through Lubbock and up to Denver.

Mr. Warner stated that he would speak with his boss to see about doing a corridor study for the north south movement and get a more detailed idea of what the costs are, what kind of freight movements could be expected and determine if there are benefits. Mr. Leonard stated we would enjoy that information. Mr. Head asked about a copy of the report. Mr. Warner stated that it would be posted on their website in about a week and that he could also send CD copies of the report to Mr. Warren. Mr. Martin asked Mr. Leonard to visit with Commissioner Underwood regarding this study as well as he has been very interested in this study. Mr. Leonard stated he would be glad to speak with Commissioner Underwood.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Consider and Take Action to Commit FY 2010 Allocation of Category 7 Funding to the West Loop 289 Project.

Mr. Jones stated that he could not improve on what was in the backup material. Mr. Jones stated that the recommendation of the Transportation Advisory Committee was very clear. Mr. Jones stated that he would be glad to give the floor to Mr. Warren and Ms. Reed for questions or discussion.

Mr. Leonard verified the recommendation from the TAC was for the West Loop. Mr. Jones agreed that it was. Mr. Leonard asked if there was discussion.

Ms. Dumbauld made motion for the TPC to commit the FY 2010 allocation of Category 7 funding to the West Loop 289 Project. Tom Martin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee moved to the next item.

REPORTS

- A. City of Lubbock**
 - **Northwest Passage Update**
 - **Gateway Streets Update**
 - **November Bond Election Update**

- B. **TxDOT**
 - **Phase 4 Marsha Sharp Freeway**
 - **Public Meeting on Outer Route Study**
- C. **Director's**
 - **ARRA Recipient Affidavit**

City of Lubbock

Ms. Reed said she was not here at the last meeting so she wanted to give an update. She stated on the Northwest Passage, she wanted the TPC to know that the Slide and Erskine Project, completion is expected from the contractor in December of this year, which is several months early. She said the slide Road piece from 4th to the Loop is in Phase 3 of that project which is the final phase and hopefully it will be done shortly. On the Slide/Erskine piece with the Loop project now getting underway, note that the Slide Road portion of that project will remain barricaded off to help with traffic control for the intersection improvements.

Ms. Reed said she appreciates all the letters of support and City Council approval and resolution as the TIGER Grant has been submitted for the big interchange project last Friday. She said she received confirmation that it was received at the Federal level. She said this includes the Erskine/Loop/Texas Tech Parkway Interchange of the Northwest Passage. She said they have been discussing with Mr. Warren and the Developer on North Slide, the piece from Marshall to the Clovis Highway regarding the possibility of some leveraging from the private sector to help raise the priority level in the Category B Projects for the stimulus money.

Ms. Reed said that the project funded for construction is Indiana from 103rd to FM 1585 on the Gateway Streets Projects. She said the design on it is almost complete. She said they are working diligently on getting the Right of Way signed off on and she hopes they will be under construction sometime after the first of the year. The design for all other projects in the Gateway Projects is nearing completion.

Ms. Reed said that City Council did call the November 3rd Bond Election. She said there are a number of street projects included in that. She said there is \$4.75 million for Traffic Signal Upgrades, \$9.75 million for the 34th Street from University to Avenue Q reconstruction, \$10.975 million for 34th Street from Indiana to University, \$7.75 for the Quaker, 98th to 114th Street, which was a Gateway Project, \$3.21 million for the strip paving of 114th Street from University to Slide, and \$43,085,000 for completion of the intersection from 98th Street to about 106th, full paving, and then strip paving onto 114th Street, which will tie into the County strip paving and strip pave back to Juneau on 98th Street.

TxDOT

Mr. Warren said that they did get bids last week on Phase 4 of the Marsha Sharp Freeway Project. The bid was slightly under \$50 million, and the company is the Lane Construction Company. Their main office is out of Connecticut but they have offices here in Texas. Mr. Warren said they look to go to construction probably around a December/January time frame.

Mr. Warren said the first public meeting on the Outer Loop was held September 1, 2009. He said there was a good turnout with about 85 people. Mr. Warren said Mr. Leonard and Mr. Beane were there from the City of Lubbock. Mr. Warren said there were a wide variety of comments received from those totally against it to "get it built tomorrow". Mr. Warren said it was the first meeting so they really didn't have anything to present. Mr. Warren said he wanted to reiterate for the public record that we not only do not know where it is going to go, but are not even sure what will be built at this time. Mr. Warren said they are just looking at what needs there are in the next 30 years in the southwest part of the Lubbock metro area. Mr. Warren said they will have another public meeting sometime in the December range to update everyone on what we have discovered and where we stand. Mr. Warren said there will be another

stakeholder meeting between now and then that will involve City, County and several small towns around Lubbock as well.

Mr. Warren state the he also included the North Slide project that TxDOT has offered to Ms. Reed to do the design work on that project for the City of Lubbock and are waiting to hear what she discussed with the private developer. He hopes to be able to offer up to TxDOT Administration that there will be more leverage through local funds coming in to try to utilize more of the economic stimulus dollars to another project in Lubbock. He said that you need to be aware it is a long shot, given that we were very successful the first time in getting projects and, on the list that has gone out, we are about fifth or sixth on the priority list for the West Region behind El Paso, Amarillo, Abilene, and San Angelo. Mr. Warren said that as Mr. Martin said, we are a District and City full of dreamers and we are going to put our best foot forward and throw up another package we hope they will be willing to accept.

Mr. Eichorst said that the wanted to make a comment about the Outer Route Study and make sure the expectations are what they are. He said the Study right now is a feasibility study. He said it is not actually going to have a route designed for the location, but hopefully determine what items and issue are out there and any challenges to overcome and what needs a route there. He said they will not actually come out with a route study until after it is determined that the feasibility study states there is a need. Mr. Leonard stated he appreciates that clarification as he felt that was the source of most of the questions at the meeting in Wolfforth. Mr. Warren said if it is found to be feasible TxDOT will proceed with an internal route study at the District level to come up with a corridor for that.

Mr. Martin reminded that the dreamers, the County of Lubbock and the City of Lubbock also put in their own money to help pay for the study. Mr. Martin said that in addition to being dreamers, we also put our money where our mouth is. Mr. Martin said we are committed to getting things done.

Directors

Mr. Jones said that Mr. Barton sent to all MPO's a certification for sub-recipients of economic stimulus funding that came from an Executive Order from the Governor's Office. A similar certification has already been signed by TxDOT. The Certification states that we will abide by all of the rules, including reporting. Mr. Jones stated that the LMPO reports every month, separate from TxDOT. Mr. Jones wanted to make the TPC aware that it was being signed. Ms. Dumbauld asked if the stimulus funds come directly to the MPO and get booked on the MPO books. Mr. Jones the funds did not. Ms. Dumbauld said that Mr. Jones should not sign it as the MPO is not actually a sub-recipient of the money. Mr. Leonard asked Mr. Satterwhite to review the form.

Meeting Adjourned.

The meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee adjourned at 9:24 a.m.