

**Minutes**  
**of the**  
**Transportation Policy Committee**  
**Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**October 27, 2009**

The meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee of the Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization was held in Room 103 at 1625 13<sup>th</sup> Street, at 8:30 a.m. on October 27, 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  
L.C. Childers, Mayor, City of Wolfforth  
Jim Gilbreath, City Council, City of Lubbock  
Lee Ann Dumbauld, City Manager, City of Lubbock  
Doug Eichorst, District Engineer – TxDOT Lubbock District  
John Wilson, General Manager, Citibus

Visitors/Staff: David Jones, Lubbock MPO  
Darrell Westmoreland, Lubbock MPO  
Tera Davis, Lubbock MPO  
Bryan Wilson, TxDOT - Lubbock  
Sharmon Owens, City of Lubbock  
Norma Johnson, Lubbock Chamber of Commerce  
Ken Sylvester, TxDOT - Retired, Ex-Officio TAC Member  
Thomas Esparza, Assistant Chief, Lubbock Police Department

**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 September 15, 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 September 15, 2009 minutes of the Transportation Policy Committee Meeting. John Wilson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.***

The Committee moved to the next item.

**Hold Public Hearing regarding amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2032.**

Mr. Jones stated that this is the second hearing of the amendments as required by the Public Participation Plan. Mr. Jones stated the first hearing was held at the Groves Branch Library on October 5, 2009. No one from the public attended the meeting. One written comment was received from Mr. T. J. Patterson. His concern was not relevant to this amendment as it pertains to a bridge at the South Loop and MLK. Mr. Jones stated that he has attempted to speak with Mr. Patterson about his concerns but has not yet received a return call.

Mr. Jones reminded the TPC that this project is the substitute ARRA stimulus or the Plan B – project. Mr. Jones explained that this amendment is simply exchanging the source of the funding from 100% local funding to 100% stimulus funding.

Mr. Leonard opened the public hearing. No public was present to speak. Mr. Leonard closed the public hearing.

The Committee moved to the next item.

**Discussion and action on amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2032.**

Mr. Jones stated that the MPO is asking for approval of the amendments to the FY 2008 – 2011 Transportation Improvement Program and Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2032 concerning the Slide Road Project from Marshall Street to U.S. 84 (Clovis Highway). This amendment changes the project from 100% local funding to 100% stimulus or ARRA funding.

***Jim Gilbreath made motion for the TPC to approve the amendments to the FY 2008 – 2011 Transportation Improvement Program and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2032. Patti Jones seconded and the motion passed unanimously.***

The Committee moved to the next item.

**REPORTS**

- A. TxDOT
  - Mr. Eichorst will talk about TxDOT's Strategic Plan
- B. Director's
  - Status of New Transportation Bill
  - Statewide Fiscal Constraint of the STIP

**TxDOT**

## **TxDOT's Strategic Plan**

Mr. Eichorst stated that TxDOT is currently working on a Strategic Plan. He passed out a flyer containing a survey that was requested by their Administration. The Administration asked TxDOT to get input from community leaders, especially transportation related. The flyer has the Mission Statement, Vision and Goals on it as well as the "survey" portion. Mr. Eichorst stated that TxDOT has been under public scrutiny due to the lack of trust which he felt was miscommunication for the most part. The Sunset Committee as well as State Law requires that the Mission Statement be in place and Mr. Eichorst said it is, but needed to be updated. TxDOT now has an online poll and is working with eight focus groups across the State as well as the Cambridge System to develop strategic goals. Mr. Eichorst went over the goals.

Mr. Gilbreath stated there have been problems with TxDOT and wondered how many of these issues have been political, including the possible changes of structure including the Commission and Executive Director. Mr. Eichorst stated that TxDOT is working with the legislature in whatever form necessary. He stated that there have been some changes as TxDOT has hired "business minded" people to handle the business functions and the Engineers are now free to return to engineering work. Mr. Gilbreath told Mr. Eichorst he did not mean to put him on the spot. Mr. Eichorst stated that TxDOT will continue to work with the legislature to improve TxDOT's trust and image.

Mr. Leonard thanked Mr. Eichorst and asked when the deadline was to turn in the surveys. Mr. Eichorst stated they needed them by Thanksgiving. Ms. Jones pointed out that the use of the word "transparency" might be important to include in the Mission Statement or the Goals section. Mr. Eichorst agreed.

## **Directors**

### **Status of New Transportation Bill**

Mr. Jones stated at this time there is no transportation bill. He said that as of Friday the discussion indicated there would be a second continuing resolution possibly this week. Mr. Jones said that a SAFETEA-LU extension may be dropped from eighteen months to much shorter six months. He said this could have happened as early as yesterday to begin on November 1<sup>st</sup> and end in April.

As far as an extension of SAFETEA-LU is concerned, the current talk is that legislators might drop support of the proposed eighteen month extension in favor of a six month extension beginning November 1<sup>st</sup> and running through the end of April. The Senate version would distribute funds to State DOTs on an earmark basis at FY 09 spending levels. The House version would allow DOTs to distribute the funds as discretionary grants.

Second, the Senate version adds \$8.7 Billion in highway contracting authority to address the rescission; the House version does not address the rescission at all.

### **Statewide Fiscal Constraint of the STIP**

Mr. Jones said that all of the MPOs have received a copy of the letter from FHWA to TxDOT stating that there is a difference in the FY10 letting caps and State STIP. He said this was also discussed at the TEMPO meeting. FHWA states that the STIP is not financially constrained. FHWA stated that they will not approve any further revisions to the STIP until it is corrected. They will, however, honor all ARRA projects. Mr. Jones wanted the TPC to know that Category 7 funding is safe and projects will continue to go to letting and if FHWA requires the state to revise their STIP the MPO may have to revise the TIP. Mr. Jones stated that if this happens the MPO will be required to go through another public comment period as required by the Participation Plan.

## **Meeting Adjourned.**

***The meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee adjourned at 8:54 a.m.***