

Minutes
of the
Transportation Policy Committee
Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization
March 7, 2008

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 7, 2008.

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

Patti Jones, Commissioner, Lubbock County
Tom Head, County Judge, Lubbock County
LeeAnn Dumbauld, City Manager, City of Lubbock
John Leonard, City of Lubbock
Jim Gilbreath, City of Lubbock
L.C. Childers, City of Wolfforth
Randy Hopmann, TxDOT - Lubbock

Visitors/Staff: David Jones, Lubbock MPO
Tera Davis, Lubbock MPO
Darrell Westmoreland, Lubbock MPO
Jerry Cash, TxDOT - Lubbock
Marsha Reed, City of Lubbock
Melinda Harvey, Citibus
Lynn Castle, TxDOT – Lubbock - Transit
Mary Whistler, U.S. Representative Randy Neugebauer
Bryan, Wilson, TxDOT – Lubbock
Kim Greener, TxDOT - Lubbock
Steve Warren, Texas Department of Transportation

Call to Order.

Ms. Jones called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Acknowledgement of Quorum by Chairman.

Ms. Jones acknowledged a quorum of the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC).

The Committee moved to the next item.

Public Comment Opportunity / Acknowledgment of Guests

Ms. Jones asked for any comment from the public. No comment was made. Ms. Jones welcomed the guests and asked them to introduce themselves.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Approval of the February 19, 2008 minutes of the Transportation Policy Committee Meeting.

Ms. Jones asked for any corrections to the minutes. No corrections were made.

Jim Gilbreath made motion to approve the February 19, 2008 minutes of the Transportation Policy Committee Meeting. John Leonard seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Public Meeting on Administrative Revisions to the FY 2008 – 2011 Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Ms. Jones explained that this public meeting was to allow comment on the Administrative Revisions to the FY 2008 – 2011 TIP. No comments were given by the public, written or in person.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Discussion and action concerning Administrative Revisions of the FY 2008 – 2011 Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Improvement Program including SAFETEA-LU Year of Expenditure Requirements.

Mr. Warren stated that he appreciated the Transportation Policy Committee responding to the quick call to meet today to discuss the Administrative Revisions of the FY 2008 – 2011 TIP. He stated that in January the Federal Highway Administration decreed that all Metropolitan Planning Organizations would need to revise their TIP to meet SAFETEA-LU requirements. We were under the impression when the TIP was approved in April of 2007 that we were in compliance and had documentation from FHWA that we were in compliance. When the call came down that the TIP's needed to be revised we thought we were in compliance and did not need to do any revisions.

Mr. Warren stated that in a videoconference a couple of weeks ago, it was determined that none of the MPO agencies had the document right. Mr. Warren stated that the change in the document is a formatting change and that no projects have been added or deleted and the TIP is still fiscally constrained. One of the changes made at the request of FHWA was to add a SAFETEA-LU checklist to the document indicating how the Year of Expenditure, Project Costs and Rate of Inflation were approached and documenting what actions were taken locally to achieve compliance. Another change was to show where coordination was made with the transit agency. Mr. Warren said that coordination between the MPO, Lynn Castle, Public Transportation Coordinator TxDOT, Melinda Harvey of Citibus and several other Staff members of TxDOT has been ongoing.

Mr. Warren stated that the Transportation Advisory Committee had a question after reviewing the Administrative Revisions about the "other" column on the project listing sheets. Mr. Warren explained that this was the percentage of the total project cost pulled to the Year of Expenditure of the project.

Mr. Hopmann stated that this has been very confusing and the TxDOT District has been frustrated by the new formats. He stated that if the format is confusing for the engineers it must be very frustrating for the general public. He stated that they did not necessarily agree with the format but it must be done to bring the TIP into compliance. He stated that they would be talking to TPP and the Feds about the format.

Mr. Gilbreath asked if the time slippage of projects was indicated in this TIP. Mr. Warren stated that it was not as this is an Administrative Revision to the original FY 2008 – 2011 TIP. He stated that when the TIP is revised again those changes would be reflected. Mr. Gilbreath asked when that would occur. Mr. Warren stated that it would probably be about this same time next year. Mr. Hopmann pointed out that at this time Lubbock would not be affected as all of the projects scheduled for this fiscal year have been let. He stated that FM 179 in Wolfforth was awarded to the low bidder this month.

Mr. Warren stated that in FY 2009 a revision would be made to the TIP to amend the Northwest Passage. He said that if by chance the TIP fails approval by FHWA it would not affect the Lubbock area at this time. He thanked Mr. Cash and Ms. Davis for their work on this project and stated that it is due in Austin on Monday.

Jim Gilbreath made motion to approve the Administrative Revisions of the FY 2008 – 2011 Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Improvement Program including SAFETEA-LU Year of Expenditure Requirements. John Leonard seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Discussion and action concerning revision of the Congestion Management Process.

Mr. Westmoreland explained that the LMPO's Congestion Management System Plan was approved before the Federal Certification Review in 2004. Some revisions were made at the suggestion of the Review Panel and the Transportation Policy Committee approved the revisions on April 12, 2005.

The Lubbock MPO will have their next Federal Certification Review in June of this year and some revisions needed to be made once again to the Plan to bring it into compliance with SAFETEA-LU requirements. The name of the Plan was changed to the Congestion Management Process per SAFETEA-LU requirements and additions were made to the CMP. Language was added to address the approved revised Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and additional Title VI language was added. Mr. Westmoreland stated the LMPO is seeking approval of the Congestion Management Process Plan to be included in the Federal Certification Review Notebook.

John Leonard made motion to approve the revisions to the Congestion Management Process. Randy Hopmann seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Discussion and approval to commit funding to the Northwest Passage Project.

Mr. Warren explained we have changed direction in the Northwest Passage project. He explained that the City of Lubbock and TxDOT are in the process of discussing work to be done on the Slide and North Loop 289 projects and developing an Advanced Funding Agreement. The City of Lubbock would be putting twenty-five million dollars into the Northwest Passage projects but the total would be closer to forty million, leaving a gap in funding. Mr. Warren said that before an amendment is made to the Transportation Improvement Program he wanted to address the Transportation Policy Committee to gain approval to make a commitment of MPO money to this Agreement. The fifteen million dollar gap would be closed by utilizing Category 7 Metropolitan Mobility Funds, District Discretionary Funds at Mr. Hopmann's agreement, and two million of unobligated funds from the LMPO. Some of this funding would come from Phase 4 of the Marsha Sharp Freeway.

Mr. Gilbreath expressed concern about moving money out of Phase 4. Mr. Warren stated there were further funding issues with Phase 4 as the 12.5 million dollars the City of Lubbock pulled from Phase 3B of the Marsha Sharp Freeway had to be replaced. This money was taken from funding for Phase 4. Mr. Warren stated that as there would already be a delay in the project it was better to utilize this funding on a project that is ready to go. He said the right of way will soon be complete and the Northwest Passage project will be ready to go. He felt it was better to use this money rather than let it sit where it would not be used for some time.

Mr. Gilbreath asked if this was the leg from Avenue L to the Interstate. Mr. Warren stated that it was. Mr. Gilbreath stated that Gateway Street Funds of the City of Lubbock was funding the City of Lubbock's portion of the Northwest Passage. He stated that they have dedicated two percent of the five percent franchise fees to this project. He wondered if it would be appropriate to utilize some of this funding. Ms. Dumbauld stated that it might be a consideration next year.

Mr. Hopmann stated there is possibility that in the FY 2009 legislative session there might be some Proposition 12 funding that might help out and felt that Ms. Dumbauld was correct in thinking this might be more appropriate at a later time. Mr. Gilbreath stated that he would like to go forward but to remember this as a possible option in the future. Mr. Gilbreath said that he feels that it is important to finish Phase 4 of the Freeway. Mr. Childers wondered how the money would be replaced in Phase 4. Mr. Warren explained that Category 7 funds received new allocations every year and funding might be available again in the future from that funding source. Mr. Warren stated that at this time he is looking for approval to go forward with a commitment of funding to the Northwest Project. Ms. Jones agreed that it would be beneficial to go forward at this time as Phase 4 is not completely funded and the money would not be able to be utilized if it remains in Phase 4 at this time.

Jim Gilbreath made motion to approve a commitment to funding to the Northwest Passage. Tom Head seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee moved to the next item.

Reports

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

Cities and County

City of Lubbock

No report.

City of Wolfforth

Mr. Childers reminded everyone of the Mayor's Beans and Cornbread luncheon at 12:00 noon.

Lubbock County

No report.

TxDOT

Mr. Hopmann stated that FM 179 was awarded and although it was slightly over by two hundred thousand it was a good bid. He said that it was awarded to the Donnig Brothers. He said that this project would need to move fast and this was a good contract. He said they recently completed work on US 84 from Lubbock to Slaton and has done work on US 84 in Floydada and US 84 in Littlefield. Mr. Gilbreath said they did the business park by the airport. Mr. Jones said they did the parking lot at the airport and they had a good history.

Ms. Jones asked the timeline for the project. Mr. Hopmann said around ninety-six days. He said that they hope to begin at the end of May and although they would not complete the project by the time school starts in August a great deal of it would be complete.

Mr. Hopmann stated that he appreciated everyone who was able to make it to the opening of the flyovers at Marsha Sharp Freeway. He said it was nice and the weather was good. He stated that they have had two good tests on the anti-ice system and they are working fine. He stated they would continue to monitor them. He stated that with the recent tragedy of two deaths on Monday night, Bryan Wilson's department is trying to analyze how best to proceed at the North Loop. He said they are putting up larger stop signs at this time and would be doing an engineering study. He said there is interesting history at this intersection as it once had signals and the crash rate was high. He said it is difficult to communicate to

the public, as traffic signals are not always the answer to a problem. Ms. Jones asked about structural damage and Mr. Wilson said that the damage was cosmetic.

Citibus

Ms. Harvey explained that as Mr. Wilson was in Washington she would give the update on Citibus. She stated that Citibus would be holding public hearings on March 24th and 25th at the approval of the Transit Board to discontinue two routes that were added last year. She stated that they have consistently lost money and Staff will recommend discontinuation.

Ms. Harvey also briefed the TPC on the status of earmarked funding to expand the Citibus parking lot, which would include the closing of 8th Street between Buddy Holly and Texas Avenue. She stated they are close to Lubbock City Council approval and Hugo Reed will be handling the project. Mr. Gilbreath wondered how the ridership was doing some time after the fare increase. Ms. Harvey said it is up about eleven percent. She said with the rising fuel cost the ridership has risen as well. Ms. Dumbauld asked how much money in fuel they would save if the two routes were discontinued. Ms. Harvey stated they were losing about \$16,000 per month on these two routes.

Ms. Jones stated that she wanted to remind the TPC that Citibus provides free rides to the polling places on Election Day and applauded Citibus.

Director

Mr. Jones stated that the LMPO had received the minute order approving the revised MAB map. He stated that we gained about thirty-six square miles with the revision.

He stated that Staff is already working on the Federal Certification Review for June.

Mr. Jones asked for a consensus to cancel the March 18, 2008 TPC meeting. Consensus was granted and the meeting will be cancelled.

Mr. Jones stated he would also like to echo the appreciation of everyone being here for this unscheduled meeting as he realized that everyone has a calendar and schedule to keep.

Meeting Adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.