



**Permian Basin MPO
9601 Wright Drive Midland, TX
Policy Board Meeting VIRTUAL via Zoom
February 21, 2023 1:30 p.m.**

Policy Board Members Present:

Jack Ladd, Jr.	Chair, Councilman, City of Midland
Eric Lykins, P.E.	TxDOT Odessa District Engineer
Terry Johnson	Midland County Judge
Mike Gardner	Ector County Commissioner
Doug Provance	General Manager, MOU/D (EZ Rider)
Steve Thompson	Odessa City Councilman

Policy Board Members Absent:

Bryan Cox	Martin County Judge
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Others in Attendance:

Cameron Walker, AICP	Executive Director, Permian Basin MPO
Ken Van Dyne, AICP	Assistant Director, Permian Basin MPO
Janna Dean	Office Manager, Permian Basin MPO
Akyra Hamilton	GIS Tech, Permian Basin MPO via Zoom
Hal Feldman, P.E.	Traffic Coordinator, City of Odessa
Bobby Wojociekowski	City of Midland, CIP Manager
Fred Herrera P.E.	Odessa District TxDOT, Area Engineer
Steve Davis	Director of Public Works, Ector County
Gabriel Ramirez, P.E.	Odessa District TxDOT Advanced Planning Engineer, via Zoom
Gary Law, P.E.	Transystems
Lauren Garduno, P.E.	Ports to Plains President/CEO
Dustin Fawcett	Ector County Judge
Liz Grindstaf	Freese and Nichols
Eddie Haas	Freese and Nichols
Jose Ortiz, P.E.	City of Midland, Engineering Services Director
Maryann Cedillo	TxDOT Public Information officer
Kevin Hankins	Kevin Sparks office
Jesus Saenz	Kimley Horn
Steven Sims	Kimley Horn
Rey Carrasco	Kimley Horn
James Beauchamp	MOTRAN

AGENDA

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Jack Ladd, Jr. at 1:30 p.m.

2. **Introductions and Announcements**

Jack Ladd, Jr. asked everyone to introduce themselves. We had 26 people in attendance.

3. **Public Comment Period (limited to 3 minutes each)**

There were no public comments.

4. **Approve the Policy Board Minutes from January 17, 2023**

A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Doug Provance, seconded by Mike Gardner, and approved unanimously.

5. **Approve the November 2022 Billing Statement**

A motion to approve the November 2022 Billing Statement was made by Mike Gardner, seconded By Eric Lykins, and approved unanimously.

6. **Presentation from Lauren Garduno, P.E. on the Ports-to-Plains Corridor**

Lauren Garduno presented a slide show to the Policy Board regarding the Ports-to-Plains Corridor and IH 27.

He shared the trade corridor, made up of the Heartland Expressway, the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway, and the Ports-to-Plains corridor. It runs from Laredo to Canada. Agriculture, energy, timber, international trade and maritime trade, national defense and security all benefit from the use of the corridor.

In June, 2019, HB 1079 was approved by the State Legislature directing TxDOT to complete an Interstate Feasibility Study for the Ports-to-Plains Corridor. This study was completed in October 2020. In 2022, the Texas and New Mexico portions were designated by Congress as a Future Interstate Highway.

7. **Approve an amended Resolution supporting projects in the 2024 TxDOT UTP**

In November 2022 the Policy Board approved a resolution containing a prioritized list of projects for inclusion into the TxDOT 2024-2033 UTP. All of the projects shown are in the 2023 version of the UTP, except for two. However, with inflation and material costs rising, the Policy Board committed its Category 2 construction funds to account for these increased costs. Six projects will be fully funded and three will benefit from additional funding. Two projects were removed from the list because they have already been completed by TxDOT.

Since the November resolution was approved TxDOT released its fiscal projections for the 2024 UTP. The result of this report is that the MPO can program an additional \$10.9M. A new resolution has been prepared to replace the 2022 document. The additional \$10.9M is recommended for the following projects:

- Upgrade Loop 338 from US 385 to Yukon Road E. from \$13,500,000 to \$18,500,000,
- Widen SH 158 from Sinclair Street to Wadley Avenue extension for \$5,000,000, and
- Reconfigure intersection on SH 349 at FM 1788 for \$5,000,000.

This new total of \$53M in project funding slightly exceeds (10%) the amount shown in the TxDOT financial projection for Category 2 funding.

Along with this submittal to TxDOT staff and the TAC have recommended that a supplemental list be added to the list previously described (\$53M). The supplemental list contains ten projects scored and prioritized by the TAC and is being forwarded along with the initial list should additional funding become available from the TxDOT UTP approval process.

A motion to approve the amended Resolution was made by Doug Provance, seconded by Terry Johnson and, approved unanimously, with Eric Lykins abstaining.

8. Approve a Resolution requesting TxDOT funding for a second PEL study

The MPO has been working on an initial phase of a Planning and Environmental linkage study to determine the feasibility of planning for an outer loop to provide regional mobility and improve transportation system resiliency in the Midland Odessa area. This first effort is nearing completion; however, in November 2022 the Policy Board directed staff to work with the Freese Nichols firm to provide additional detail on the northeastern and southwestern portions of the potential alignments. Staff received a proposal from Mr. Haas and will request a budget amendment at the March meeting after reviewing the scope and cost of service.

Cameron explained the purpose of this agenda item is to seek the Board's approval of a resolution that would introduce a new level of study beyond the first phase. The request is that TxDOT consider funding a more detailed loop corridor study to determine right-of-way needs, corridor characteristics, and to provide cost estimates for future construction with detail provided in locations where interstate standards may become necessary.

A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Terry Johnson, seconded by Mike Gardner, and approved unanimously with Eric Lykins abstaining.

9. Appoint a member to serve as Acting Vice-Chair

Cameron explained the Policy Board by laws allow for voting on even years. Therefore, the Chair can recommend appointing a Vice Chair. Jack Ladd, Jr., Chair recommended appointing Mike Gardner, as acting Vice-Chair. A motion to approve was made by Eric Lykins, seconded by Terry Johnson, and approved unanimously.

10. Discuss Policy Board Training

We will have training beginning at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served, before our next Policy Board Meeting on March 20. Kirk Fauver and Bill Frawley will lead the training.

11. MPO Staff Reports

a. 90-Day Calendar

b. Staff Activities – 30-day

Staff continued working with FNI to amend the contract for the PEL Study. Staff is nearing completion of the MPO's portion of the 2050 Travel Demand Model. Staff hosted a special meeting of the TAC to discuss and vote on the projects on the 2024 UTP supplemental list.

12. Agency Project Reports

a. TxDOT Odessa District

TxDOT shared they have several ongoing projects. They are hoping for a fall completion of Hwy 191 and Loop 250.

b. City of Midland

City of Midland is working on the water line at Hwy 349 and Michigan Lane. Also, the project at Soloman and Hwy 349 is progressing.

c. Midland County

Midland County reports they are finishing up the Cold Storage facility.

d. City of Odessa

There are 2 roadway reconstructions in progress, Meadow Street and Tanglewood. Faudree is progressing with utility and storm drainage work.

e. Ector County

Ector County is working in Gardendale, finishing Cottonwood. 67th Street is 95% complete. 42nd Street from FM 1936 to Knox reconstruction will begin in approximately 2 weeks.

f. Martin County

There was no one present from Martin County.

g. MOUTD

EZ Rider reports they are still dealing with sickness in their agency but, they have hired 10 new drivers, 5 of which are already driving routes.

13. Future Meetings

The next meeting will be March 20, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. with Policy Board training and lunch at 11:30 a.m.

14. Conduct Executive Session concerning any, and all, subjects and for any, and all, purposes permitted by Chapter 551 of the Texas Government code, including, but not limited to: Texas Government Code Section 551.071 for the purpose of consulting with the Board's attorney; Texas Government Code Section 551.072 to deliberate the purchase, lease, or value of real property; Texas Government Code Section 551.074 to discuss personnel matters.

15. Take Action Concerning Executive Session Matters

There was no Executive Session.

16. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Terry Johnson, seconded by Mike Gardner and approved unanimously at 2:45 p.m.

