

Policy Board Members Present:

Debi Hays	Chair, County Judge, Ector County
John Speed, P.E.	District Engineer, TxDOT Odessa District
Tom Sprawls	Councilman, City of Odessa
Doug Provance	General Manager, MOUSD (EZ-Rider)
Robin Donnelly	County Commissioner, Midland County

Policy Board Members Absent:

Jack Ladd, Jr.	Vice-Chair, Councilman, City of Midland
Bryan Cox	Judge, Martin County

Others in Attendance:

Cameron Walker, AICP	Executive Director, Permian Basin MPO
Ken Van Dyne, AICP	Senior Transportation Planner, Permian Basin MPO
Yazeed Al Rashdi	GIS Technician, Permian Basin MPO
Alyssa Chavez	Office Manager, Permian Basin MPO
Mike Pacelli, P.E.	Traffic Engineer, City of Midland
Jessica Schuttler, P.E.	Dunaway Associates, Midland County
Andrew Avis	Director of Public Works, Midland County
Hal Feldman, P.E.	Traffic Coordinator, City of Odessa
Cathleen Hamilton	Project Management Specialist, Ector County
Robert Ornelas, P.E.	Director of TP&D, TxDOT Odessa District
Gabriel Ramirez, P.E.	Advanced Planning Engineer, TxDOT Odessa District
Tommy Ervin	President, Ector County Utility District
Jay Edwards, P.E.	President, Parkhill

AGENDA ITEM

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting of the Permian Basin MPO Policy Board was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Policy Board Chair, Debi Hays. A quorum was present.

2. Introductions and Announcements

Yazeed Al Rashdi, the MPO's new GIS Technician/Planner, was introduced to the meeting attendees.

3. Public Comment Period

None.

4. Approve the Policy Board Minutes from April 19, 2021

A motion was made by Doug Provance and seconded by John Speed to approve the Policy Board Minutes from April 19, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Discuss the April 2021 Billing Statements

April is the seventh billing period for fiscal year 2021 and reflects the expenditures from Tasks and Subtasks as approved in the FY 2021 UPWP. During the month of April, Permian Basin MPO expended \$33,723.11 which brings the percentage of expenditures to 22.50% of the FY 2021 programmed funds. The actual balance of funds is \$276,880.34.

A motion was made by John Speed and seconded by Tom Sprawls to approve the March 2021 billing statement. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Presentations from Tommy Ervin, President, Ector County Utility District, and Jay Edwards, P.E., President, Parkhill Engineering regarding water supply in unincorporated

Presentations on the topic of water supply and transmission were made by Tommy Ervin, President of the Ector County Utility District, and Jay Edwards, P.E., President, Parkhill Engineering. The two presenters gave an overview of what is occurring in both counties regarding water supply and distribution.

7. MPO Staff Reports

a. 90-Day Calendar

Staff included a 90-day event calendar to inform the Policy Board of upcoming events.

Staff 30-day activities include: Staff continued to discuss the potential for a regional Resiliency Plan with FHWA, TTI and TxDOT. Staff welcomed Yazeed Al Rashdi as the MPO's GIS/Transportation Planner. He began employment on May 3rd. Staff attended (virtual) the American Planning Association National Conference (three-days). Staff participated in a phone conference with FHWA, TxDOT, and TTI to provide each agency with an update on activities. Staff attended the Texas Freight Advisory Committee meeting and the kick-off meeting of the I-20 corridor. Staff continues to work with the City of Midland and Odessa to update the MPO's GIS capabilities. A newsletter was distributed on May 5th to 870 email recipients. Staff also participated in a call with FHWA and a Title VI representative. It was noted that the MPO's website has this topic well covered.

c. Update on Interregional Planning and Environmental Linkage Corridor Study:

Staff discussed scheduling a kick-off meeting with the MPO staff and Mr. Eddie Haas of Freese Nichols during the week of May 24th. Mr. Haas also indicated that he intends to hold stakeholder interviews in early June and to work with a Study Oversight Committee consisting of 10-12 individuals representing the region's agencies including both cities and all three counties. The MPO will request the assistance of the Oversight Committee membership.

d. Update on the Resiliency Plan:

Mr. Bill Frawley has prepared a draft scope of items to be considered and researched that will become part of the MPO's Resiliency Plan. The draft is being finalized by TTI.

e. Update on the Freight Advisory Committee

Staff has been working to form an initial Freight Advisory Committee to assist the MPO and TxDOT with expertise in the freight industry. The description shown below will provide the Board and the Committee about the need, membership makeup, and role of the committee. To date, the MPO has received responses indicating an interest in serving from:

Scott Scheffler, Permian Road Safety Coalition
Tyson Moeller, Raquel Espinoza, UP Railroad
Kyle Law, WarrenCat
Guy Andrews, San Angelo EDC
Virginia Belew, PBRPC
Stephen Robertson, PBPA
Kenny Jordan, AESC
Jeremy Haken, Chevron

Permian Basin MPO Freight Advisory Committee

Background: The Permian Basin MPO is in the heart of the geographic region known as the Permian Basin. This region includes approximately 25 Texas counties and two New Mexico counties. The economic strength of this region comes primarily from the exploration and development of oil and gas resources. For decades the region has experienced population rise and decline fluctuations that mirror the energy sector activity. Technological advancements in the energy industry have reduced the cost of production and ensured that a drilling project will be successful. In 2015, the ban on selling US oil to foreign markets was lifted. This combination of positive trends combined with significant capital reinvestment into the region by the world's biggest producers has affected employment and population growth throughout the region. One of the more pertinent factors affecting the region and the MPO is the increase in freight, much of it being picked up and delivered within a 75-mile radius of the Midland/Odessa urban center. It is for these reasons that the MPO is keenly interested in establishing a freight advisory committee to obtain qualified information on freight industry needs to assist with Policy Board decision making.

Role of the Committee: The role of the Freight Advisory Committee (FAC) will be to assist the Technical Advisory Committee and the Policy Board by sharing knowledge based on the members experiences in the freight delivery business. The main objective of the FAC would be to provide data (where applicable) and freight operational trends to assist the Policy Board with investment decisions for short and long-range projects that will improve freight delivery in the urban area and the surrounding region, impacting both urban and rural freight needs.

Committee Membership: The MPO would benefit greatly from having freight professionals serve as members of the FAC. Representation may come from corporations such as UPS, FedEx, USPS, SAIA Trucking, J.B. Hunt, Family Dollar Distribution Center, UP Railroad, Warren Cat Equipment, and from trucking company owners as well as non-profit organizations like the Permian Road Safety Coalition and the Permian Basin Petroleum Association. The membership will likely be fewer than twelve; meetings may be held semi-annually or quarterly. Members should expect to discuss freight movement logistics, intermodal freight, and industry trends and specific project needs for potential inclusion in the MPO's long-range plan or TxDOT's rural transportation planning.

8. Agency Project Reports

a. TxDOT Odessa District – Robert Ornelas: In April, the ramp reconfiguration along Loop 250 and SH 158 was let to Jones Brothers. This project did have a donation agreement with the Midland Development Corporation. The projects at Loop 338 and JBS Pkwy E and Loop 338 and W Yukon signal projects will be going out to bid in May. A sidewalk project in West Odessa, on Knox, is scheduled to start in July.

b. City of Midland – Mike Pacelli: The Loop 250 and Midkiff project was recently awarded to make modifications to revisions of the U-turn and an additional left turn lane. The Thomason project, east of Loop 250, is currently under construction. Annetta St, East of Loop 250, is also under construction. The A Street project downtown is still under way. They just awarded two other projects. Those projects include the construction of Sunglow, between Cottonflat Rd and Midkiff, and the construction of Sinclair, from the Loop to Midland Drive.

c. Midland County – Andrew Avis: Bids are due soon for the Monahan’s draw crossing project, at CR 1232. The county has completed the WCR 127 project. The CR 1150 project is nearly 75% complete. The CR 1210 project is also nearing completion. The general fund project at CR 1270, between I-20 and CR 160, is currently out for bid.

d. City of Odessa – Hal Feldman: The contractor for the University Blvd project is working again and they are still anticipating that the project will be complete by the Summer. The city is looking to reconstruct North Dixie Boulevard, from 46th Street up (north) to the city limits and have hired a consultant to do a roadway design.

e. Ector County – Cathleen Hamilton:

- CTIF Seal Coat Project
- Cottonwood Road Project
- 42nd Street (2nd phase) widening from US Hwy 1936 to Knox Ave.
- 87th Street widening from US Hwy 385 to FM 1882
- Apple Street (Pleasant Farms) Improvements to add to it with shoulders and reprocess surface

f. Martin County – Absent.

g. MOUTD – Doug Provance: EZ-Rider is still needing to hire more drivers. They also are awaiting their new two 29-foot buses to undergo a final inspection and arrange transportation for delivery.

9. Future Meetings

Policy Board Meeting – Monday, June 21, 2021 at 3:00 pm

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 8:00 am

10. 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.

11. Take Action Concerning Executive Session Matters

None.

12. Adjourn

A motion was made by Doug Provance to adjourn; Tom Sprawls seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with adjournment at 4:16 pm.