



Permian Basin MPO

Metropolitan
Planning
Organization

Virtual Policy Board Meeting
Permian Basin MPO
9601 Wright Dr., Suite 1, Midland, TX, 79706
September 21, 2020 3:00 p.m.
Minutes

Policy Board Members Present

Debi Hays	Chair, County Judge, Ector County
Jack Ladd, Jr.	Vice-Chair, Councilman, City of Midland
Robin Donnelly	County Commissioner, Midland County
Doug Provance	General Manager, MOUTD (EZ-Rider)
John Speed, P.E.	District Engineer, TxDOT Odessa District
Tom Sprawls	Councilman, City of Odessa
Bryan Cox	Judge, Martin County

Policy Board Members Absent:

None.

Others in Attendance:

Cameron Walker, AICP	Executive Director, Permian Basin MPO
Kallie Hallmark	GIS Analyst, Permian Basin MPO
Alyssa Chavez	Office Manager, Permian Basin MPO
Matt Carr, P.E.	City Engineer, City of Midland
Jose Ortiz, P.E.	Engineering Services Director, City of Midland
Gary Law, P.E.	Director of Project Development, MDC
Andrew Avis	Midland County
Jessica Schuttler, P.E.	Dunaway Associates, Midland County
Thomas Kerr, P.E.	Director of Public Works, City of Odessa
Phillip Tindall, AICP	Planner, Texas Department of Transportation
Chad Windham, P.E.	Director of Operations, TxDOT Odessa District
Gabriel Ramirez, P.E.	Advanced Planning Engineer, TxDOT Odessa District
Robert Ornelas, P.E.	Director of TP&D, TxDOT Odessa District
Gene Powell	Public Information Officer, TxDOT Odessa District
Krista Jeacopello	Congressional Liaison, TxDOT
Sara Harris	Director of Operations, Midland Development Corporation
Evans Kessey	Director of Highways & Streets, Ector County
Valerie Alvarado, P.E.	Design Engineer, TxDOT Odessa District

AGENDA ITEM

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting of the Permian Basin MPO Policy Board was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Policy Board Chair, Debi Hays. A quorum was present.

2. Introductions and Announcements

None.

3. Public Comment Period

None.

4. Approve the Policy Board Minutes from August 17, 2020

A motion was made by Jack Ladd, Jr. and seconded by John Speed to approve the Policy Board Minutes from August 17, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Discuss the July 2020 Billing Statement

July is the tenth billing period for fiscal year 2020; the tables presented reflect the expenditures from Tasks and Subtasks as approved in the FY 2020 UPWP. During the month of July, Permian Basin MPO expended \$35,853.14 which brings the percentage of expenditures to 50.13% of the FY 2020 programmed funds. The actual balance of funds is \$641,221.42.

A motion was made by Doug Provance and seconded by Jack Ladd, Jr. to approve the July Billing statement. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Approve the establishment of a Permian Basin Regional Freight Advisory and Bicycle/Pedestrian Work Groups

Cameron provided information regarding the current operational work groups called the Permian Basin Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee and the Permian Basin Freight Advisory Work Group. Cameron is requesting approval by the Board to operate with the two working committees. Cameron presented a list of potential members that would be willing to participate with the freight advisory group. Jack Ladd, Jr. had various questions regarding the bylaws of each committee, the process of selecting potential members to participate in the groups and how each committee would operate. Cameron presented information of other MPO's working committees within the state to provide a better understanding of what the Permian Basin Bicycle and Pedestrian Work Group and the Freight Work Group could generate.

A motion was made by Robin Donnelly and seconded by John Speed to approve the establishment of a Permian Basin Regional Freight Advisory and Bicycle/Pedestrian Work Groups. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Presentation on TxDOT FY 2021 Unified Transportation Program (UTP)

On August 27, 2020, the Texas Transportation Commission approved the 10-year Unified Transportation Program for the period 2021 -2030. During July, TxDOT released the draft FY 2021 for review and public comment. Ultimately, there were no changes made to the draft document. Cameron presented documents from the FY 2021 UTP that list the projects in the MPO boundary. Cameron noted that the funding for the new I-20 mainlines were included in the UTP, but three other projects were not. Cameron also stated that the projects that were not included are shown as “Remaining Funding TBD” in the document that was presented. Cameron mentioned that the Todd Road interchange at Loop 250, the 52nd/56th Street interchange at Loop 338, and the conversion of a portion of NE Loop 338 to freeway from US 385 to Yukon Road were listed within the UTP but are still waiting for funding to be available. Cameron mentioned that these projects may be funded in FY 2022 by the Commission.

8. Discuss low cost project list

Cameron presented a list of numerous low-cost projects that the MPO’s Technical Advisory Committee has identified at their previous meeting. Said list of projects was selected by the City of Odessa, City of Midland, Ector County and Midland County. Cameron stated that this list of projects could be undertaken in the region and would benefit locations where on-system and off-system roads intersect. Cameron mentioned that since the projects will be funded using TxDOT Category 2 funds made available for programming to the MPO, each proposed project will need to be approved by the Texas Transportation Commission and listed in the ten-year UTP. Cameron stated that the TAC meeting on October 1, 2020, and any subsequent meetings that may be necessary, will focus on minimizing the list of proposed low-cost projects by scoring and ranking said list of projects in accordance with Texas HB 20 and the FAST Act. Robert Ornelas, with TxDOT, recommended naming the list of projects the group CSJ projects list, instead of low-cost projects list.

9. Discuss MTP amendment

Cameron stated that the reason for the discussion of amending the FY 2021 UTP is the new funding authorizations of several TxDOT funding categories for the widening of I-20. The project would include widening the current 4-lane highway to a 6-lane highway. The limits of the project include approximately 17 miles from JBS Parkway to east of SH 349 (Rankin Hwy). Cameron mentioned that with the approval of the funding, as well as increased dollars for Midkiff at I-20 and CR 1250 at I-20, MPO staff will need to prepare an amendment to the Forward 45 MTP and possibly the TIP. The amendment that staff would prepare would reflect the new funds provided and the scopes of said project. Cameron stated that the draft documentation that staff will prepare will be considered by the TAC, with an objective of bringing the proposed amendment to the Policy Board within the next few months.

10. Discuss policy for official MPO media contact

Cameron stated that the two most common types of public information releases are Press Releases and opinion-based articles. Cameron stated that typically the press releases should be prepared by the staff and reviewed by the Policy Board Chair prior to publication. Cameron mentioned that the Policy Board may consider establishing a policy regarding the release of MPO news information to the media. John Speed recommended that the MPO's contracted public involvement consultant help with distributing any future public information releases. Debi Hays recommended that any future public information announcements be distributed on the MPO's letterhead that way each contributing agency involved within the MPO gets recognized.

11. MPO Staff Reports

a. 90-Day Calendar

A 90-day event calendar was provided to inform the Policy Board of upcoming events.

b. RFP for Corridor Study and Public Involvement Assistance

Staff prepared a draft Requests for Proposals for the regional corridor study and for Public Involvement Assistance. The documents are currently under review by the City of Odessa Legal Office and the TxDOT Civil Right Division.

12. Agency Project Reports

- a. TxDOT Odessa District – John Speed:** Roughly \$160 M project under construction within the MPO boundary and are expected to let over \$100 M worth of projects soon. The region also recently received a \$25 M Build grant which is for a subproject for the overall I-20 Corridor project.
Robert Ornelas: Referred to the September MPO project status report.
- b. City of Midland – Jose Ortiz:** The A Street at Wadley intersection improvement project is moving forward. The two projects for next year's bond program are utility work on A St and utility work on Thomason. Once they get back from the winter season, they are hoping to have 8 more projects constructed from the 2017 bond election program.
- c. Midland County – Andrew Avis:** They have been officially selected to contribute to a grant award related to TWDB for a floodwater and floodway study in Midland County. The project that was selected is \$1.2 M that is to study a large area of property that spans from Ector County to Midland County. The funding is expected to be available around February 2021.
- d. City of Odessa – Tom Kerr:** The Council awarded a contract to TEC to relocate the 24-inch water line at Yukon and Loop 338 in preparation to the state's overpass project. It is expected to start next month and should be complete by March 2021. Continuing with the University Blvd project and it should be complete by Summer to end of next year. Also, roadway design project is moving along on Faudree from SH 191 to Yukon, 56th Street from E loop 338 to Faudree, Dawn from Yukon to 87th Street and on Dixie from I-20 to South Loop 338.
- e. Ector County – Evans Kessey:** The Kermit Highway to FM 1936 project has almost completed the south part and are hoping for it to be complete by late October. The Paw Paw Street project has now moved to the third portion of the project which is from Klondike to US 385. The project is to widen the existing street, to increase the capacity, and reprocess the existing base to make it more durable.

The Paw Paw project is anticipated to be complete by November of 2021. Also completed 44 miles of in-house seal coating. There are also a few projects going on at the Airport to address an overflow parking issue. The court will be voting tomorrow for the RFP for the CTIF grant they were awarded to help improve existing infrastructure. The county is working on design for projects in their 20-year improvement plan. They are also working on pavement rehab design done for I-20 and Moss Ave.

f. Martin County – Bryan Cox: No comment.

g. MOUTD – Doug Provance: EZ-Rider announced that the Tindale Oliver firm will be contacting various individuals throughout the Board to answer a questionnaire for their Comprehensive Operations Analysis effort.

13. Future Meetings

Policy Board Meeting – Monday, October 19, 2020 at 3:00 pm

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 8:00 am

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

None.

16. Adjourn

A motion was made by John Speed to adjourn and seconded by Jack Ladd, Jr.. The motion passed unanimously with adjournment at 4:35 pm.