



# Permian Basin MPO Metropolitan Planning Organization

## **Policy Board Meeting**

Zant Room in Saulsbury Center at Odessa College  
201 W. University Blvd.  
Odessa, TX 79764  
**June 18, 2018 3:00 p.m.**

## **Minutes**

### **Policy Board Members Present**

Robin Donnelly	Chair, County Commissioner, Midland County
John B. Love III	Vice-Chair, Councilman, City of Midland
David Turner	Mayor, City of Odessa
John Speed, P.E.	District Engineer, TxDOT Odessa District
Gennie Garcia	General Manager, MOU/D

### **Policy Board Members Absent:**

Bryan Cox	County Judge, Martin County
Ron Eckert	County Judge, Ector County

### **Others in Attendance:**

Cameron Walker, AICP	Executive Director, Permian Basin MPO
Pamela Berry	Transportation Planner/GIS Tech, Permian Basin MPO
Rosie Spencer	Administrative Planning Assistant, Permian Basin MPO
Robert Ornelas, P.E.	Director of TP&D, TxDOT Odessa District
Gabriel Ramirez, P.E.	Advanced Planning Engineer, TxDOT Odessa District
Gene Powell	Public Information Officer, TxDOT Odessa District
Ciro Baeza, P.E.	Director of Construction, TxDOT Odessa District
Jessica Alexander Schuttler	Dunaway Associates, Midland County
Tim McDaniel	Planner, City of Odessa
Hal Feldman	Traffic Coordinator, City of Odessa
Jose Ortiz, P.E.	Engineering Services Director, City of Midland
Gary Law	Director of Project Development, MDC
Roy Allen	Transportation Committee Chairman, Odessa Chamber
Craig Stokes	West Texas Food Bank
Trevor Hawes	Midland Reporter-Telegram

## **AGENDA ITEM**

### **1. Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting of the Permian Basin MPO Policy Board was called to order at 3:06 p.m. by Policy Board Chair, Robin Donnelly. A quorum was present.

### **2. Introductions and Announcements**

Cameron again introduced the newest MPO staff member, Pam Berry to the Board. John Speed introduced Gabe Ramirez, P.E., Gene Powell, Ciro Baeza, P.E., and Robert Ornelas, P.E. for those who do not know them.

### **3. Public Comment Period**

Commissioner Donnelly stated that the MPO is the primary conduit for proposing projects to TxDOT. He asked that everyone should go through the MPO to have those discussions, rather than going directly to Austin.

### **4. Approve the Policy Board Minutes from May 21, 2018**

A motion was made by John Speed and seconded by Councilman Love to approve the Policy Board Minutes from May 21, 2018 with the change mentioned. The motion passed unanimously.

### **5. Approve the April 2018 Billing Statement**

Rosie mentioned the wording in the packet is not correct as it still shows the numbers from the previous month, but the billing report is. April is the seventh billing month for FY 2018 and the MPO spent \$33,899.56. The percentage of expenditures is at about 50% of the annual budget. Rosie referenced the last page of the billing report, it shows that the MPO has received carryover funds in the amount of \$264,327.40 making the actual balance \$507,510.80.

A motion was made by Councilman Love and seconded by John Speed to approve the April 2018 Billing Statement with the corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

### **6. Approve the Public Participation Plan**

When the FAST Act came out in December of 2015, there were provisions in there to add specific language into the Public Participation Plans (PPP), particularly public port facilities, which in our case is the Midland International Air and Space Port. Also, the Act requires the inclusion of private providers of transportation including inter-city bus services which exist through EZ-Rider and Greyhound and any employer based commuting services or van pool programs. Staff is aware of some that are conducted daily by oil and gas companies and possibly some fast food restaurants for their employees. The MPO will be required to keep a list of those so staff can remain in contact with them for public participation. Staff requested the Board approve the draft PPP to go out for public comment since there is a 45-day comment period, that ended on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. No comments were made.

A motion was made by Mayor Turner and seconded by Councilman Love to approve the Public Participation Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

### **7. Update on the Multi-Use Trail Corridor Study**

Staff has been working on this for about 6 months, the Policy Board had previously approved to transfer \$24,742 into Task 5, which is for Special Studies. In addition, the MPO applied for State Planning and Research (SPR) funds and received \$17,258 for a total of about \$42,000 to put towards a bicycle/pedestrian corridor that the MPO is calling a Multi-Use Trail Corridor connecting the two cities. The existing trail locations are in eastern Odessa and western Midland, staff worked with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee which has existed for about 8 months. The committee went over the RFP before it was sent out, they also reviewed the 4 proposals received and scored them. Staff has been in contact with the Halff Associates who received the majority of the votes and were the Committee's preferred consultant. Contract negotiations are underway to utilize the \$42,000. This item was put on the agenda so that the Board could authorize Cameron to sign the contract on behalf of the MPO. Staff is hoping to get it finalized by July 1<sup>st</sup> to spend the SPR funds before the fiscal year is over. This is a proposed 6-month project, which is faster and cheaper than most projects the MPO has completed in the past. Commissioner Donnelly asked if there are any items in the contract that are "sticklers" Cameron answered that one thing is that the consultants would come out and meet with the Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee and have 2 Open Houses, one in Odessa and one in Midland, but would not come to meet with the Policy Board at the project conclusion, the consultants would prefer a video conference instead. Mayor Turner stated that while he understands there is a need for a bicycle/pedestrian trail, he doesn't know why the MPO is looking at something like this with all the lives being lost recently. He does not see a safe corridor anywhere. Cameron stated that this would not be on a road surface, this would be its own corridor with no motorized competition. Mayor Turner mentioned that does make him feel a little better, but with the drivers around here he is still nervous. Councilman Love stated that the problem is people will still continue to bike and it is up to the MPO to try and make it as safe as possible. John Speed asked who the proposed Project Manager is, Cameron answered Jim Carrillo is the principal in charge. Councilman Love asked if the TAC was also involved in the meetings and scoring that the staff and the Bicycle Advisory Committee held, Cameron answered that there are some members of the TAC that are on the Bicycle Advisory Committee, Tim McDaniel, Hal Feldman, and Jessica Alexander. Councilman Love then asked if the sticklers are too strong, how much of a difference in scores is there between Halff and the next company? Cameron answered that it is less than a point, he added that staff is still negotiating with Halff and Cameron mentioned again the unwillingness they show of coming to a Policy Board meeting needs to be resolved. John Speed asked if the Board approves today, could it give Cameron the authority to go to the next choice if an agreement is not reached? Cameron answered yes, and Councilman Love added to just add it to the motion. John Speed then mentioned that the bicycling community here are very

cohesive and very interested that maybe one meeting is all that's needed. It could get everyone's voice heard in the same room at the same time, then there would be another trip available to make the presentation to the Board. Councilman Love added the location would have to be centrally located. John Speed asked who the next company was, Cameron answered Dunaway.

A motion was made by Councilman Love and seconded by John Speed to approve the authorization of the Executive Director to negotiate a contract on behalf of the MPO for the Multi-Use Trail Corridor Study. The motion passed unanimously.

### **8. Presentation on the 2045 MTP Public Workshops**

Cameron summarized the workshops held to begin work on the 2045 Plan, we are currently working with the MTP that ends in 2040. Five workshops were held, 2 in Odessa, 2 in Midland, and 1 at EZ-Rider. Attendance was not high at any location, a total of 28 people attended with the most showing up to the first one held at Centennial Library. Cameron went over the activities and some of the discussions held. One of the activities was for the attendees to indicate their priorities and the top 3 were "reduced congestion", "safety improvements", and "well-maintained roads". Councilman Love pointed out that the public is valuing bicycle and pedestrian over transit. John Speed mentioned there seems to be a link between access to transit and bike/ped alternatives and it shows there is a need for the MPO to focus on that more than before. Councilman Love stated he believes that people may look at biking and transit to help offset the cost of living here. John Speed mentioned traditionally funds from Category 2 have been put towards the roads, maybe they need to see what the options are to make improvements to the transit stops and increase transit stop locations. Gennie Garcia added ADA accessibility and linking the bikers and pedestrians to the bus stops to switch to transit is easy. Councilman Love asked what happened to the proposed transit center across the old courthouse in downtown Midland. Funds were appropriated for it and nothing has happened. Jose Ortiz answered that he does not know either, he would look into it. Gennie added that she knows it was planned, but she does not believe money was put towards it. EZ-Rider has been working with Chuck Harrington with the City of Midland for a transit facility near the Municipal Court building. She agrees we should look closely into it and find out what exactly is going on with it. Commissioner Donnelly asked Cameron if there was anymore information on this item, Cameron answered no and that there is still about 8 months before a draft MTP will be presented to the Board. This information will be included. Councilman Love stated that he is disappointed in the turnout, this topic is too important. He suggested the MPO look into contracting with someone that could get information out to bring more of the public to the meetings and workshops. Commissioner Donnelly agreed that staff should look into a group whose only job is to help promote these events. John Speed asked Gennie if EZ-Rider had a Comprehensive Plan, she answered that it is in transition and just internal. She would like there to be a study to get a public one done. John Speed went on to suggest that the TAC take on gathering all transit and pedestrian and bicycle work to see if they can make recommendations. Commissioner Donnelly stated that the MOUTD

Board may have a problem with the TAC stepping in and John Speed said TAC could just help and work with what they are already working on and find the common ground to start getting those projects programmed. Commissioner Donnelly agreed it is a good idea and asked staff to instruct the TAC to begin that process. Gennie asked how would they begin that process? Commissioner Donnelly answered it is just a matter of the TAC sharing information with staff regarding transit issues. Cameron added that the last improvement that had a non-motorized component was the beautification project on 5<sup>th</sup> St. between Golder and Adams, near ORMC in 2013. Gene Powell added that for the multi-corridor trail study, staff should ask if people are biking for exercise or to go to their jobs? Commissioner Donnelly stated he thinks there is more of a sport aspect, there are no protected bike lanes downtown and in residential areas. John Speed added that TxDOT would look into which funds could be applied to off-system and what other types of funding are available. Councilman Love mentioned this is why it is important for this organization to coordinate with other entities because the City of Midland has plans to get people downtown by making it more pedestrian friendly. Two hotels are being added and the City is also working on getting Wi-Fi at the parks and he believes this will encourage people to hop on their bikes and head downtown. John Speed added that the City of Odessa probably has more interest because of Odessa College and UTPB are historically the main bike trip generators. Mayor Turner mentioned that he appreciates this, but bikes cannot be put downtown. Money is already being spent to maintain the roads just like Midland is. If you can get to the bike path it is great, but you are taking your life into your own hands biking to downtown. John Speed stated there have been new design techniques incorporated within the last 15 years for pedestrians. This is the opportunity to make it work here, if the MPO can make a dent in changing the way the community thinks, this could be a long-term improvement. We need to find a way to make it safe, it will take time, effort, and education.

## **9. MPO Staff Reports**

**a. 120-Day Calendar:** Cameron went over the calendar, asked if the July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting was fine because Councilman Love will not be in attendance and there still is no member to represent Ector County. Commissioner Donnelly mentioned he is devastated a representative did not show up since Cameron was told they would be at this meeting. Cameron stated he was told they tabled the item at the Commissioner's meeting. TAC moved the July meeting to the 12<sup>th</sup> because of the holiday.

**b. Update on the Regional Thoroughfare Plan:** Eddie Landram made a presentation to the Board two months ago and he has volunteered to create a GIS map involving all 3 counties. There was a pdf document for Martin County and staff has met with Judge Cox to verify with him what roads are critical in Martin County. MPO staff has worked to put that into a map that Eddie can work with and put all 3 counties together. The biggest component was to make sure all counties refer to the same names for the same types of corridors. Jessica has been working hard with Dunaway Associates and has joined in at all the meetings regarding this plan. Staff will try to bring a draft

in July, if not staff should be able to give more of an update then. When it is all done, the counties would need to adopt their own plan before the MPO can adopt all 3.

**c. 30-Day Activity and Social Media Update:** Cameron attended the TxDOT Transportation Planning Conference from June 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. He mentioned participating with the model users group on the Travel Demand Model. The Dallas MPO is the only one allowed to do their own model, all other MPOs cannot and only a few had a Delphi Panel process like the Permian Basin MPO did which involved major landowners, investors, stakeholders, the school districts, developers, etc. The total was about 60 people. Pamela went to the TxDOT environmental training in San Angelo, and the TIP that was recently approved by the Board was officially due to TxDOT Austin today. The Permian Basin MPO has 106 Likes on Facebook and 84 Followers on Twitter.

## **10. Agency Project Reports**

**TxDOT Odessa District: Robert** – Mentioned he would answer any questions the Board had over the status sheet. Councilman Love asked about the \$23 million the Board approved to be put towards project RC-86. Robert answered that it is already authorized but Councilman Love mentioned it is not shown in the list. Cameron answered that the TIP was just turned in today, so it may just need to be updated. **John Speed** - TxDOT is re-working their plans for energy corridors. About 3 years ago an effort was made to identify energy corridors and where investments need to be made to help the damage to the roads. As a part of the re-work, TTI has been asked to do some research that will affect the MPO in some ways. Part of the research is helping develop research studies and interview techniques and processes to get a better handle of where the growth in the roadways will be in respect to the energy corridors. What that means for the MPO is the TDM will be able to take this data and take the increase of truck traffic around the MPO for a more accurate estimate. They are also looking at a parallel evaluation of the Texas Freight Corridor Study, it will be done as a micro study, they are in the process of developing a scope. This will give a better handle of what all this truck traffic means, not only in the region, but in the exterior portions of the TDM. John Speed added that they should be seeing results in about 3-4 months. Commissioner Donnelly asked if TTI will change their modeling study, and John Speed answered yes. Cameron added that this has gone as high as Mike Leary, the Texas Federal Highway Administration Director, Kirk Fauver who many know because he has been to some Board meetings, Jose Campos, representatives of Mark William's office, and Caroline Mays who is the Director of Freight Transportation in the state. There have been about 15 different people involved in these conversations. The MPO is the beneficiary of the contract but it is not certain who TxDOT will go into contract with. This will involve 22 Texas counties and 2 New Mexico counties. John Speed is hoping to get information that will be used in a long-term basis.

**Gene Powel** – Updates on some construction projects; first is rehab on I-20 on the east side of Stanton. Because of the depth of the rehab there will be lane closures. The second one is BI-20 between Midland and Odessa loops, a lot of work is being done at night but once they start resurfacing the road, a lot of that work will be done during the day, which means lane closures as well. The most significant thing to happen during this project is the access at west Loop 250 will change slightly. Last update is on the Fairgrounds Rd. project, there have been some trucking delays. Price was planning to set up beams this month, but they settled on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> so there will be traffic pattern changes. Councilman Love mentioned they should coordinate with the City of Midland because of the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration happening at Hogan Park and when people

are leaving, officials make them make a right on Lamesa Rd. and most make a right to head east onto Loop 250. Gene stated that they have been working with Mike Pacelli to address this issue. Councilman Love mentioned he had people ask when Front St. will be repaired at his townhall meeting. Commissioner Donnelly added that they resealed from Main St. to Wall St., but the worst part is east of Main St. down to Fairgrounds Rd. John Speed stated that they do not usually sealcoat roads that are in bad conditions because they would just be covering up. There would have to be a more in-depth project done. Councilman Love just wants a date or time frame of when that would happen, because there is a lot of development going on in the area as well.

**City of Midland: Councilman Love** – Wanted to let the Board know that Representative Bane introduced House Bill HR6111 last week which is the expansion and extension of I-14. He is curious to see what Congress does. **Jose Ortiz** – Finalized utility installations for the project at Woodcrest, north of Andrews Hwy. and east of Loop 250. They are bidding out the paving portion and hope to have contractor in place next month. The partnership between MDC and the City of Midland to get basins in adjacent to Hwy. 349, in front of the rehab project from Loop 250 to Martin County. Mill and inlay project on Lamesa Rd. north of Wadley up to Loop 250, trying to get it done by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. When that is complete they will go down to Longview which is the road that ties to Rankin Hwy. by Wal-Mart just north of I-20. Still working on getting the depression on Midkiff repaired. They are trying to assess the situation and they will be closing it up soon, but it is causing delays for traffic. Commissioner Donnelly asked about the basins on 349, Jose answered that it is construction of drainage basins that are connected to the new curb and gutter and the widening of certain portions of 349 adjacent to the new developments along that corridor. When they made the additional right-turn lanes into those developments, it altered the drainage configuration, so the basins are needed.

**Midland County: Commissioner Donnelly** – Working on right-of-way and trying to decide to utilize eminent domain. Worked with City of Odessa and their ETJ requirements for Yukon Rd. between Loop 40 and Hwy. 191.

**City of Odessa: Hal Feldman** – Several contractors for Onyx, Atmos, and Oncor are working on University. Hoping to have the final plans from Kimley-Horn this week for the final roadway project and start to advertise in July. As the roadway clearance project is finishing up heading east, he is hoping to follow up right behind it with construction. The city's sealcoat project finished up last week and the rejuvenation has about another 3 weeks of work left.

**Ector County: Absent**

**Martin County: Absent**

**MOUSD: Gennie** – Progress on maintenance facility expansion, framework is being put up now. They have purchased the property right next door which is a big step towards the multi-modal phase 3 to have a true inter-city bus services run. They have some funding to apply for by July 1<sup>st</sup> and on June 21<sup>st</sup> they are doing "Dump the Pump", which is a nationwide event for the American Public Transit Association (APTA). It is to show the public the transit system, the

benefits of the transit system, and to get them out of their vehicles and into the public transit system. There are a lot of people who don't know how to ride transit so they are offering the service for free on June 21<sup>st</sup>. You can plan your trip on Google Maps.

Cameron mentioned that Tim McDaniel applied to the State Bicycle Advisory Committee, he is a part of the local Bicycle Advisory Committee.

### **11. Future Meetings**

Policy Board Meeting – Monday, July 16, 2018 at 5:00 pm

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – Thursday, July 12, 2018 at 8:00 am

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee – TBD – Late June

LEAP Rural Rail District Meeting – N/A

Also, the Permian Road Safety Coalition will be meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Monahans.

### **12. 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 purposes 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.

### **13. Take Action Concerning Executive Session Matters**

None

### **14. Adjourn**

A motion was made by Mayor Turner and seconded by Councilman Love to adjourn the meeting at 4:28 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.