



Permian Basin MPO

Metropolitan
Planning
Organization

**Policy Board Meeting
Permian Basin MPO
9601 Wright Dr., Suite 1, Midland, TX, 79706
August 17, 2020 3:00 p.m.
Minutes**

Policy Board Members Present

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

Policy Board Members Absent:

Bryan Cox	Martin County Judge
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Others in Attendance:

Cameron Walker, AICP	Executive Director, Permian Basin MPO
Kallie Hallmark	GIS Analyst, Permian Basin MPO
Jose Ortiz	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
Bill Frawley, AICP	Research Scientist, TTI
Phillip Tindall, AICP	Planner, Texas Department of Transportation
Chad Windham, P.E.	Director of Operations, TxDOT Odessa District
David Peck	Project Manager, Ector County Public Works
Mike Pacelli	Traffic Engineer, City of Midland
Evans Kessey	Director of Highways & Streets, Ector County
Krista Jeacopello	Congressional Liaison, TxDOT

AGENDA ITEM

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting of the Permian Basin MPO Policy Board was called to order at 3:01 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 June 15, 2020 and July 20, 2020

A motion was made by Jack Ladd and seconded by Tom Sprawls to approve the Policy Board Minutes from June 15, 2020 and July 20, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Discuss the May & June 2020 Billing Statements

May is the eighth billing period for fiscal year 2020; the tables below reflect the expenditures from Tasks and Subtasks as approved in the FY 2020 UPWP. During the month of May, Permian Basin MPO expended \$24,613.69 which brings the percentage of expenditures to 41.44% of the FY 2020 programmed funds. The actual balance of funds is \$702,489.68.

June is the ninth billing period for fiscal year 2020; the tables below reflect the expenditures from Tasks and Subtasks as approved in the FY 2020 UPWP. During the month of June, Permian Basin MPO expended \$24,915.12 which brings the percentage of expenditures to 45.00% of the FY 2020 programmed funds. The actual balance of funds is \$677,574.56.

A motion was made by Jack Ladd and Robin Donnelly to approve the May and June Billing Statements. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Approve an amended FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program

At the July meeting the Policy Board approved the FY 2021 Unified Transportation Work Program (UPWP) as the operating budget for the MPO. There was discussion at the meeting about prioritizing and funding work under Task 5, Special Studies. The funding may be used for corridor planning efforts and not for specific engineering items such as the preparation of plans, securing ROW, and design elements. The MPO has committed \$35,000 of the FY 2021 UPWP funds to support the EZ-Rider comprehensive transit study. Additionally, the Board supported the continuation of the Multi-Use corridor connecting the two cities in a general alignment south of SH 191. The initial phase of this work cost \$42,000. The second phase will not exceed \$48,500. Contract documents have been started between the MPO and Dunaway Associates. The Board expressed a desire to discuss the regional corridor studies at the August meeting.

With that in mind, Cameron is offering the following suggestions.

1. Rather than divide the funding into portions for the studies. The MPO may be better served by considering a different direction. The new direction would include the drafting of a far reaching document that would have buy in from all affected stakeholders - as well as utility providers (water mainly), industries and interest groups such as PPPA, PSP, Chambers, EDCs, MOTRAN, trucking industry, bicycle/pedestrian groups, TxDOT, FHWA/FTA. The emphasis behind the corridor would be to establish a major region wide transportation corridor that is tied to the growth planned by numerous entities in the future. The corridor itself would benefit the region's stakeholders. Elements of the 24-county freight study sponsored by TxDOT will be very beneficial to show the magnitude of an urban corridor as it ties into the rural network. The proposed study would need to be undertaken showing the growth planned in the region before a general alignment of the corridor is designated. Much of this information is currently available.

2. Cameron spoke with the MPO's TxDOT representative about programming additional funds for a study. With the budget expenditures nearing 40% of the FY 2020 budget, there will be additional funds for the Task 5 purpose. He suggests that an additional \$75,000 of funds would suffice. With the \$35,000 and \$48,500 obligated for EZ Rider and the Multi-Use corridor, there would be a remaining \$231,500. That assumes the Multi-Use corridor Phase II will be completed over two budget years. Approximately \$20,000 would be spent this year. The entire sum could be listed in Task 5 with a single proposed study serving the entire region.

Cameron stated that he will proceed with amendments to the UPWP following Board direction and consideration and that the UPWP document can be readily changed to forward to TxDOT following approval.

A motion was made by Jack Ladd and Doug Sprawls to approve an amended FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Approve a Resolution supporting the TxDOT 24 County Freight and Energy Sector Transportation Plan including additional strategic recommendations from the MPO

In September 2019, the TxDOT Freight Division kicked off a regional meeting among stakeholders in a Permian Basin. The study is currently in final draft form and it includes a 24-county area; 22 counties are in Texas and two are in New Mexico. It is expected to be complete in September. Now that the TxDOT team and their consultants are almost finished the work, it would be timely for the Board to consider approving a Resolution in support. Cameron met with the Odessa and Midland transportation planning staff as well as County representatives to discuss potential additions to the 24-County Freight Study.

The following are ideas generated from multiple discussions as mentioned above. The potential behind these ideas is add some, or all, of these ideas into the report to the ongoing 24-County Permian Basin Freight Study which is nearing completion. Responsibility for adding any of these ideas lies with TxDOT and the Freight Study team. By adding the ideas to the report, it is possible that future action including studies will be considered by TxDOT. There is no hierarchical order to these ideas.

1. Study the feasibility of creating a corridor that connects NE Odessa to the Craddick reliever route.
2. Study the feasibility of extending the Craddick Highway from SH 349 eastward to FM 1208 to cross I-20 and connect to SH158
3. Study locations for direct connects on the freeway system to improve freight mobility (i.e. West Loop 338 at I-20)
4. Examine existing and potential designated freight routes
5. Convert non-freeway to freeway facilities in higher use freight corridors
6. Consider utility relocation and drainage issues associated with project development
7. Examine Railroad Commission data sets to provide an early determination if existing (or planned) infrastructure, wells, storage facilities will adversely affect a proposed MPO project
8. Study the potential impact of adding Spur type roads like Lubbock where connections between highways are improved by simple redirection to improve congested interchanges.
9. Examine a potential corridor from FM 3503 to Loop 338 to 1788 in Odessa extending eastward to FM 1788 and possibly SH 349 in Midland Co.

A motion was made by Robin Donnelly and Tom Sprawls to approve a Resolution supporting the TxDOT 24 County Freight and Energy Sector Transportation Plan including additional strategic recommendations from the MPO. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Approve the establishment and continuation of a Permian Basin Regional Freight Advisory Committee (1:04:00)

Early in the effort to prepare the 24-county study it was stated by stakeholders that a continuation of the existing committee (2019) should be a key component following approval of the study. Currently, the MPO has one operational committee called the Permian Basin Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee. Kirk Fauver, Texas Division, FHWA included in his recommendations following the MPO's Certification Review that "improved coordination with rural local public agencies and freight industry officials" should occur. Cameron believes the Committee could be formulated shortly after the completion of the TxDOT work in October. Cameron proposed drafting ideas on how this Committee would function including makeup of membership, meeting times, topics that would be under the purview of freight experts to discuss and promote. FHWA and TxDOT have heavily invested in the Permian Basin Freight and Energy Sector Transportation Plan. There will be numerous requirements for the implementation of the objectives described in the current draft document. The MPO's Freight Advisory Committee will play an important role in accomplishing the stated objectives.

John Speed requested that two separate motions be made. The first motion is to create a Permian Basin MPO Freight Advisory Committee that meets FHWA recommendations and provides input to the Policy Board regarding regional freight trends. Robin Donnelly seconded this motion.

The second motion John Speed made is to defer to the vote on the Initial Committee Membership at the next policy board meeting. Members may include individuals from the current Freight Study Steering committee and standing representation from MOTRAN, PBRPC, trade and industry groups related to transport and trucking. Robin Donnelly seconded this motion.

9. Presentation by TxDOT Odessa District regarding a Call for Projects

John speed recommended that the MPO establish an Annual Call for Projects. He stated by doing so it will keep the pipeline full of projects and will keep all projects up to date. John Speed mentioned that a prioritized annual process is most common. John Speed asked that Cameron start researching the practices at other MPO's and recommend a more detailed process at our next policy board meeting for adoption.

10. MPO Staff Reports

a. 90-Day Calendar

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

b. Update on the TxDOT 24-county regional freight study

On Thursday August 13th, the Permian Basin Freight and Energy Sector Steering Committee met to hear and participate in a discussion with the TxDOT Freight team and consultants. The meeting was held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The presenters described each of the draft chapters in detail with additional discussion on the next steps in the process, including implementation. The work is scheduled to be complete by August 24th will approval anticipated in October. Cameron forwarded a copy of the presentation to the Board on August 13th.

c. Explore opportunities for programming lower cost projects

Cameron met with several TAC members on two occasions to discuss the possibilities of finding funding streams and to establish procedures or policies for the Board to consider so that the MPO's lower cost projects that may already be "shovel ready" can be programmed as soon as possible. Cameron will need to explore this topic in detail. Currently, all Category 2 funds programmed for a project must be shown in the TxDOT 10-year UTP. Cameron will seek further clarification on this topic from TxDOT.

11. Agency Project Reports

a. TxDOT Odessa District – John Speed: Referred to the monthly TxDOT list of projects.

b. City of Midland – Jose Ortiz: Golf Course St and Midkiff project is due to be completed this week. At street, from Cuthbert going south, will start soon. The A street at Wadley intersection improvement project is moving forward and doing well with a lot of progress being made. The year two of bond projects will be complete with the opening of the Bluebird project.

c. Midland County – Andrew Avis: South Loop extension project is picking up with starting base work soon. Cluster A and Cotton Flat/Midkiff projects are coming to completion. The CR 1150 North and South of the loop are about to commence.

d. City of Odessa – No comment.

e. Ector County – Evans Kessey: The Kermit Highway to FM 1936 project has finished the north part of the roadway and are moving to the south part of the project. The Paw Paw Street project is widening for the existing street to increase the capacity and reprocessing the existing base to make it more durable. A bid is going to be rewarded for the 67th Street project. Completed 27 miles of contracted seal coating. There are also a few projects going on at the Airport.

f. Martin County – Absent.

g. MOUTD – Doug Provance: EZ-Rider has spent the last few months picking a consultant for their Comprehensive Analysis Operation Plan and decided to go with the Tindal & Oliver firm. They are expected to start work immediately. EZ-Rider also is expecting 10 new buses to be coming in soon.

12. Future Meetings

Policy Board Meeting – Monday, September 21, 2020 at 3:00 pm

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 8:00 am

13. 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.

14. Take Action Concerning Executive Session Matters

None.

15. Adjourn

A motion was made by Robin Donnelly to adjourn and seconded by John Speed. The motion passed unanimously with adjournment at 4:59 pm.