

9601 Wright Blvd. Midland, Texas
Policy Board Meeting IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL via Zoom
February 26, 2024 1:00 p.m.

Policy Board Members Present:

Eric Lykins, P.E.	TxDOT Odessa District Engineer
Jack Ladd, Jr	Chair, Midland City Councilman via Zoom
Terry Johnson	Midland County Judge
Steve Thompson	Odessa City Councilman
Mike Gardner	Vice Chair, Ector County Commissioner

Policy Board Members Absent:

Bryan Cox	Martin County Judge
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Others in Attendance:

Cameron Walker, AICP	Executive Director, Permian Basin MPO
Akyra Hamilton	GIS Tech, Planner Permian Basin MPO via Zoom
Bobby Wojciechowski	City of Midland, Capital Improvement Manager
Robert Ornelas, P.E.	Director of TP&D, TxDOT Odessa District
Frew Bogale, P.E.	Odessa District Area Engineer, TxDOT
John Henderson	Attorney and Grant Coordinator, Ector County
Fred Herrera, P.E.	Area Engineer, TxDOT Odessa District
Michele Hagemann	Grant Accountant, City of Midland
Tommy Gonzalez	City Manager, City of Midland
Jose Ortiz	Assistant City Manager, City of Midland
Chad Windham, P.E.	TxDOT Odessa District, Director of Transportation
Saul Romero, P.E.	TxDOT Odessa District, Construction Manager
Gabe McClelland	Transportation Planner, City of Midland
Kerry Koehler	City of Midland
James Beauchamp	President, MOTRAN via Zoom
Debra Richmond	Permian Strategic Partnership via Zoom
Sara Harris	Midland Development Corporation via Zoom
Eddie Haas, AICP	Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Ellen Amorim, AICP	Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Jesus Saenz	Kimley-Horn
Rey Carrasco	Kimley-Horn

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Policy Board Chair, Jack Ladd, Jr. at 1:03 p.m.

2. Introductions and Announcements

There were no introductions and announcements.

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

There were no public comments.

4. **Approve the November 2023 Billing Statement**

Cameron led the discussion on the November 2023 Billing statement. In November 2023 the MPO was at 7.9 % of its annual budget for FY 2024.

Jack Ladd entertained a motion. A motion to approve the November 2023 Billing Statement was made by Vice-Chair Mike Gardner, seconded by Terry Johnson, and approved unanimously by the Policy Board.

5. **Hold a workshop to continue discussion on major corridor planning**

At the January Board meeting the Policy Board indicated it would like to hold a workshop with staff and the Freese Nichols team to discuss the development of future long-range corridors including the interregional corridor (outer loop) as well as I-27 and I-14. A focus on the discussion should be the best way to show the MPO's priorities in the 2050 MTP update due in November 2024.

Eddie Haas from the Freese Nichols team led the first part of the discussion. If there were any advancements of a regional loop what are some things that need to happen? Near term, within the next two years, the MPO will complete a MTP update and develop a formalized project process. Medium-term would have a TxDOT-led environmental documentation. Robert explained what criteria must be met to even start the process of the environmental documentation. The first step is making sure that the project is in the FISCALLY constrained portion of the MTP. Freese Nichols suggested an illustrative map similar to what NCTCOG did in their MTP. Creating an illustrative map that shows important routes that may need some work without assigning funding to it. Freese Nichols team suggests that the priority considerations are: Points of network connect ("logical termini"), segments of independent utility, regional consideration and needs, mobility, safety, freight movement, and project development.

Eddie Haas asked, how do we leverage the existing and proposed Interstates?

Eric informed the board that the implementation plans for I-14 and I-27 should be out in Summer 2024. Jack thinks that of the routes in the outer loop study, Route B is the low hanging fruit and would be the easiest. Then he asked Eddie which areas would be the most difficult to implement. Eddie suggested that Route C would be difficult due to Greenwood. The other would be Route B because 1788 is included in future I-27 plans. Cameron sees segment D as being problematic as well because very little of the pre-existing roads in segment D are on-system.

James Beauchamp, who was attending via zoom, also reminded the room of a few things regarding I-14 and I-27 and is directly quoted from the chat box below:

“The I-14 Designation also mentions Loop 338, and regarding SH 158, mentions a route that “generally” follows 158 to encompass the south loop in Midland. The I-27 includes FM 1788/SH 349, but any environmental requires looking at build/no-build as well as alternatives. So, future interstate planning/development efforts can help plan segments/portions and potentially bring in non-system as viable alternatives, for consideration.”

Eric stated that as we get the information from the implementation plans for the interstates it will be easier to see what pieces of the outer loop would or could benefit from I-14 and I-27. The Board prioritized segments B and E from the Interregional Corridor Study map because these segments have the most potential to be affected by I-14 and I-27.

6. Approve a Resolution adopting an amended Title VI/Environmental Justice Plan

Cameron led the discussion explaining what the Title VI/Environmental Justice Plan. All MPO’s have this document. A new presidential initiative came out in late 2021 called Justice 40. Justice 40 is the idea that 40% of overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow towards traditionally underserved populations in order to ensure that their needs are being met. Maps of traditionally underserved populations within the PBMPO Boundary have been included in the Title VI Document.

Jack Ladd entertained a motion to approve a resolution for the amended Title VI/Environmental Justice Plan. A motion was made by Terry Johnson, seconded by Vice-Chair Mike Gardner, and approved unanimously by the Policy Board.

7. Hold an Election for the positions of Policy Board Chair and Vice-Chair

A motion was made by Jack Ladd, Jr and seconded by Steve Thompson for Mike Gardner to be elected Policy Board Chair. This was approved unanimously. A motion to elect Jack Ladd, Jr as Vice-Chair was made by Terry Johnson and seconded by Steve Thompson before being approved unanimously.

8. MPO Staff Reports

a. 90-Day Calendar

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

b. Staff Activities – 30-day

Cameron attended a Border-Trade Advisory Committee meeting in El Paso, Texas. Cameron brought the possibility of a presentation from someone from the TxDOT team to discuss why it is so important to look at these border locations whether they are in the valley or out in El Paso.

The MPO also continued to work with Freese & Nichols on the PEL Interregional Loop Report.

The MPO has their federal certification review on February 27th and February 28th, 2024.

9. Agency Reports

a. TxDOT Odessa District

- Yukon at 338 opened
- BI-20 – opened W.B. lanes
- I-20 – 1st of May
- 1882 – Started Feb
- Big Spring – Jones Brothers – Wadley to I-20 – Continuing with Concrete work
- Cotton Flat – pour EB deck February 29th AND WB deck March 15th – schedule to open Spring of 2024
- Midkiff deck is scheduled for March 15th

b. City of Midland

- Wadley extension – tie into the intersection at 158 from Crowley
- Briarwood utility from Briarwood to Avalon @ 158
- Waiting on a resolution for pipeline relocation to do Fairgrounds from Loop 250 to Mockingbird
- Hoping for last two roadway projects are hoping to get this month: Main Street and the remainder of Garfield

c. Midland County

No updates

d. City of Odessa

No updates

e. Ector County

- 42nd street project is a little ahead of schedule
- Tripp St – in the engineering stages – should be ready to drop a bid by Springtime.

f. Martin County

No updates

g. MOUTD

No updates

10. Future Meetings

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2024 at 8 a.m.

The next Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for March 18th, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

11. **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.**

12. **Take Action Concerning Executive Session Matters**

There was no Executive Session.

13. **Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Terry Johnson, seconded by Steve Thompson and approved unanimously at 2:37 p.m.

This meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Law (V.T.C.A. Government Code 551).