

AGENDA ITEM VIII - ACTION

November 18, 2009

Ethics By-Laws Clause

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The 81st Texas Legislature enacted S.B. 585 relating to standards of conduct and ethics for metropolitan planning organizations. The standard code of conduct applies to MPO board members and MPO employees. The bill provides that MPO board members or employees who engage in certain activities are subject to termination. S.B. 585 also requires each policy board to adopt the ethics policy and distribute the ethics policy to new employees and new policy board members.

Section 2 of the same bill requires each policy board of a metropolitan planning organization, not later than January 1, 2010, to adopt by laws establishing an ethics policy as required by Section 472.034(c), Transportation Code, as added by the Act, and distribute a copy of the ethics policy to each policy board member and employee.

ACTION REQUESTED:

The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) is requested to:

- 1. Approve an amendment to the Sherman - Denison Metropolitan Planning Organization By-Laws to include a 'Code of Ethics' section as required by Section 472.034 (c) of the Texas Transportation Code.*
- 2. Each board member to sign their 'Ethics Policy' document before meeting adjournment on November 18, 2009.*

ATTACHMENTS:

- Proposed MPO By-Law amendment
- Ethics Policy Document