

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
SHERMAN-DENISON MPO
GRAYSON COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COURT ROOM
February 7, 2007 11:00 a.m.

Members Present: Chairman Gene Short, Bobby Littlefield, Tom Speakman, L. Scott Wall, Danny Offill

Non-Voting
Members Present:

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Robert Wood, Wally Johnson, Frances Pelley, Jennifer Cantu, Sue Ann Stephens

Guests Present: Noel Paramanathan, Steve Ekstrom, DeeAnna Ballard (TAPS), Becky Woodson (TAPS)

Chairman Gene Short called the meeting to order and declared a quorum of the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) present at 11:00 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes -

Motion was made by Danny Offill, seconded by Bobby Littlefield to approve the December 6, 2006 TPB minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

II. PROPOSED MTP/TIP - Program Administration Guidelines-

Mr. Wally Johnson informed the Board that the MPO administration of the MTP/TIP programs, while following federal guidelines and our public involvement procedure, has not required a protocol between TxDOT and the Transportation Policy Board. Because of the increased demands of SAFETEA-LU as well as TxDOT's new TUMP programs, the volume of work our office handles suggests a more formal procedure needs to be developed in some areas. Staff is proposing an MTP/TIP Program Administration Guidelines to ensure accuracy and streamline the process. The guidelines would address:

1. Proposed formal amendments to the TIP
2. Administrative Change Amendment
3. Public Participation Plans for TIP Amendments
4. TIP Amendment Request Submittal
5. Use of Statewide CSJs

Mr. Johnson also informed the Board that at the prior meeting, the board requested that these guidelines contain verbiage which would allow for contingency and/or emergency projects and also the Board be informed of changes not requiring its approval.

Mr. Johnson provided the Board with a copy of the draft document addressing these changes.

A motion was made by Danny Offill, seconded by Bobby Littlefield to approve by resolution the proposed MTP/TIP Program Administration Guidelines. Motion passed unanimously.

III. FY 2008 - 2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Draft -

Mr. Johnson told the Board that in accordance with the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is updated every two years and is approved by the MPO and the Governor of Texas. The purpose of this document is to provide the public, FHWA, FTA, TxDOT and other interested parties with a priority list of projects and project segments to be carried out within a 4-year period after the adoption of the TIP. Mr. Johnson explained to the board that the draft TIP would be presented to the public in April along with the draft FY 2008 - 2009 UPWP as well as the update to the 2030 MTP. Mr. Johnson made note that the Category 3- Urban Mobility projects identified by the Board on the next agenda item will be added to this draft document. The TPB reviewed and commented on the FY 2008-2011 TIP. There was no action taken on this item.

IV. Category 3 (Urban Mobility) Projects -

Mr. Johnson reminded the board of last years discussion of Cat 3 projects and how the board ranked them. The board has again been asked by TxDOT to rank these projects. In an effort to explain how the funding works, Mr. Johnson asked Steve Ekstrom from TxDOT's Paris office to speak to the board.

Steve Ekstrom, TxDOT, reported to the Board that there is 3 or 4 million dollars a year available for a grand total of 28 million dollars to use in Sherman Denison MPO. He told the Board that there is an upcoming consensus meeting in March that TxDOT will attend and try to come to agreement with other MPO's to find out whose projects are going, and when. He asked the Board to prioritize the projects.

When projects were previously prioritized, the second priority project was chosen to be funded (US 82 - to the East from FM 1417 to Bethany Road at the MPO boundary). The cost of the project (approx \$5.9m) was approx \$4m in Category 3 money and the balance came from local efforts to get Congressman's Hall to help with the balance. Mr. Ekstrom briefly explained how 'total project cost' is being worked on at TxDOT's level and will be used included starting sometime in March.

There was a discussion amongst the board members regarding the process and which projects will be appropriate. Mr. Littlefield stated that the projects on the list were still good. As part of the discussion, Mr. Littlefield (noting that boundary expansion was the next agenda item) proposed for consideration potential expansion of MPO boundary to US 69 to address a gap. Mr. Ekstrom commented that if the boundary is expanded for that purpose, perhaps the funding would be approved but there is a possibility that the portion of US 82 in question might be funded with Category 4 monies. Mr. Littlefield mentioned some other ideas to create a \$28m project including US 75 (bridges, overpasses, drainage, etc. using Cat 6 monies already approved) roadway portion thereby addressing this all at one time. He stated he could combine various category funds. However he also has nine counties to address.

11:46am - L. Scott Wall leaves meeting.

Danny Offill made a motion on keeping the priorities as listed, Mr. Littlefield seconded the motion with the understanding on keeping the priorities contingent upon making sure that the section of the number two priority is US 82 and is part of the MPO by amending the boundary, MTP and whatever is needed. Mr. Ekstrom commented that you could take the first priority and 'sub fund it'. This could be accomplished by 'breaking it into parts' being that you only have so much money. He stated that the motion was made it was 'all or none'. Chairman Short at this time wanted clarification on the motion. The motion was amended to say "to take the priority listed (project) as number two, existing number two which US 82 from

FM 1417 east to Bethany Road will 'go away'. It will be replaced with US 82 from Bethany Road to US 69. All other priorities will stay the same. We could use different categories of money to fund the project. Will also look at incorporating the MPO planning boundary to US 69." At that point Mr. Littlefield interjected, 'to be more precise, our number two priority is contingent upon further action by the board on extending the planning boundary and whatever amendments may required to our MTP.' The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Johnson told the Board that they need to officially designate a representative for Consensus Meeting on March 6, 2007. Motion was made by Tom Speakman, seconded by Danny Offill, to elect Gene Short to represent MPO at the Consensus Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Possible Expansion of the MPO Planning Boundary -

Bob Wood reported to the Board that he reviewed options to move the MPO boundary. He directed the Board's attention to the maps in their agenda packets which showed expansion westward to include HWY 289.

Steve Ekstrom advised the Board that if they moved the MPO boundary to cover Hwy 82 from Bethany to Hwy 69 , the Hwy 82 project will no longer be Category 4 eligible. He explained to the Board that the projects that are congressionally earmarked are being funded first at this time.

The Board instructed Mr. Wood to extend the boundary to include the Hwy 289 tollway inside the boundary, bring back the information to the next MPO meeting, and amend the Long Range Plan There was no action taken on this item.

VI. Other-

There was no other discussion.

VII. Public Comment Period-

There was no public comment.

VIII. Executive Session -

Chairman Short announced that the MPO requested going into Executive Session under Chapter 551.074 to discuss personnel matters : 1) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee; or 2) to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee. Motion was made by Tom Speakman, seconded by Danny Offill for the Board to go into executive session at 12:15pm.

The Board returned to open session at 12:40pm. No action was taken at this time.

IX. Adjournment-

The TPB meeting adjourned at 12:41pm.