

1 TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD  
2 SHERMAN-DENISON MPO  
3 City of Sherman Council Chambers  
4 220 W. Mulberry, Sherman, TX 75090  
5 February 20, 2008 10:00 a.m.  
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8 Members Present: Chairman Gene Short, Tom Speakman, Mayor Bill Magers, Danny Offill  
9

10 Non-Voting  
11 Members Present:

12  
13 Members Absent: Bobby Littlefield

14 Staff Present: Robert Wood, Wally Johnson, Frances Pelley, Jennifer Cantu, Sue Ann Stephens  
15

16 Guests Present: Jeff Miller (City of Sherman), Frank Toby (First Transit), Jerry White (Grayson  
17 County)  
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19 **I. Call to Order -**

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21 Chairman Gene Short called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.  
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23 **II. Acknowledgment of Quorum by Chairman -**

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25 Chairman Short declared a quorum of the TPB present.  
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27 **III. Acknowledgment of Guests -**

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29 Mr. Short recognized guests in the audience.  
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31 **IV. Approval of Minutes -**

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33 Motion was made by Tom Speakman, seconded by Danny Offill to approve the February 6, 2008 TPB  
34 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.  
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36 **V. Review of FM 691 Corridor Study Proposal Evaluations-**

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38 Mr. Wally Johnson reported to the Board that Eighteen (18) RFP's were sent out to prospective consulting  
39 firms for the FM 691 Corridor Study. Two proposals were submitted by the deadline of December 31, 2007.  
40 One each from Kimley-Horn out of Dallas and Alliance Transportation Group out of Austin. Copies of  
41 the proposals were delivered to the technical committee (Tom Speakman-City of Denison, Jeff Miller - City  
42 of Sherman, Jerry White-Grayson County and Kevin Harris-TxDOT). Copies were also delivered to the  
43 policy board for their review. The technical committee met on February 19, 2007 to review the evaluations  
44 of its members. The results of the evaluations were very close. Kimley Horn received the highest score

1 of 70 points Alliance Transpiration Groups received a score of 69.  
2 Chairman Short asked if he could provide some background on how we got to this point. He proceeded  
3 to explain the status regarding the State's hold on the 'in-kind' match and MPO's hold on the proposal  
4 review because the Federal monies (which are in reserve) were not being released. He asked his county  
5 auditor if he could spend money out of his road and bridge 'money' to match the federal money and was  
6 told he could. He stated that TxDOT would release the federal money if this match was available. He  
7 asked that the board authorize the technical committee to start negotiating a contract with the consultant.  
8 If the negotiations with the first consultant fail, the committee would be authorized to negotiate with the  
9 second consultant. He stated that TxDOT at the next transportation commission meeting will consider  
10 reinstating the matching funds. Either way the MPO has the funds to proceed with the study.

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12 The Board reviewed and discussed the evaluation results as provided by the technical committee. There  
13 was no action taken on this item.

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15 **VI. Action on the Negotiation with Consultants to Perform the FM 691 Corridor Study-**

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17 Mr. Wood briefly reiterated that on December 6 TxDOT announced that they would not be able to match  
18 the dollars to do a study such as this. This study was part of the approved UPWP. He gave a background  
19 on the states MPO's trying to find the money on a statewide basis. Mr. Wood stated that he had spoken  
20 yesterday (February 19, 2007) with Jack Foster of TxDOT's transportation planning division and Mr. Foster  
21 assured Mr. Wood that they would release the federal dollars. However, the planning division of TxDOT  
22 does not have procedures on how to take the money and spend it. Mr. Wood stated that he had spoken with  
23 Mr. Littlefield (who was not able to attend the board meeting because of a previously scheduled meeting  
24 in Paris) and that Mr. Littlefield, while he was concerned on how the funds are being disbursed, he would  
25 support going ahead with the negotiations with the consultant. He also conveyed to Mr. Wood that he  
26 would offer the services of Mr. Steve Ekstrom, Director of Transportation Planning and Development, to  
27 help in the negotiation process. Mr. Wood stated that there is a possibility that the money will be reinstated  
28 by the transportation commission when it meets in March. He stated he would still need to receive, in  
29 writing, TxDOT's commitment to release the dollars if the local match is made available. They would need  
30 to show the feds that the match is there before they can release the dollars.

31  
32 Mayor Majers commented that 'the money is locked down'. This is our budget (MPO's). He also stated  
33 that he wanted to be very clear that the City of Sherman has no funds to help in the process. They may be  
34 able to do 'in-kind' work. Mr. Wood stated that we have a working maximum that is in the work plan  
35 (\$80,000 - that is the MPO's) . He stated that TxDOT would match that figure. Chairman Short asked if  
36 his match was \$16,000. Mr. Wood said that if the board wants to hold the amount to \$80,000, the match  
37 would be \$16,000 (\$64,000 -fed dollars + \$16,000 - local match = \$80,000).

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39 Chairman Short asked if the board would be amenable to the technical committee to go up to \$96,000.  
40 Mayor Majers said he would be prepared to cap the expenditure at \$96,000. Mr. Offill asked if the study  
41 be done for \$80,000.

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43 Motion was made by Danny Offill, seconded by Mayor Bill Magers to start contract negotiations with the  
44 preferred vendor (Kimley-Horn) based on technical review, if negotiations fail, authorize the committee  
45 to go to 2<sup>nd</sup> choice and bring contract to TPB Board for approval. A cap on expenditure would be set at  
46 \$80,000. Motion passed unanimously.

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**VII. Public Comment Period-**

Ms. Frances Pelley introduced Mr. Frank Toby with First Transit.

**VIII. Adjournment -**

The TPB meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.