

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
SHERMAN-DENISON MPO
Grayson County Commissioner's Courtroom
August 8, 2007 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: ___ Chairman Gene Short, Bobby Littlefield, Tom Speakman, Jeff Miller

Non-Voting
Members Present: ___

Members Absent: Danny Offill

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

Guests Present: Mayor Bill Magers (City of Sherman), Kevin Harris (TxDOT), Bill Herrington (City of Van Alstyne), Jerry White (Grayson County), Kevin Farley (City of Pottsboro), Van Price (Grayson County), Freddy Lessly (TAPS), Becky Yert (TAPS) and DeeAnna Billner (TAPS)

Chairman Gene Short called the meeting to order and declared a quorum of the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) present at 10:00 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes -

Motion was made by Bobby Littlefield, seconded by Tom Speakman to approve the June 5, 2007 TPB minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

II. Discussion and Action Concerning Cities of Sherman and Denison Request for a Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) Requiring an Administrative Change to the Draft FY 2008-2009 UPWP -

The cities of Sherman and Denison are requesting that the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) consider conducting a Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) at the intersection of US 75 and FM 691. The reasoning for this request is that the existing and proposed development in the area will have a definite impact on the infrastructure.

At the last TPB meeting a technical committee consisting of the cities of Denison and Sherman was formed to meet at a later date and discuss goals and objectives prior to developing a 'scope of work'. On June 12, 2007 staff met with the technical committee members and their support staff. The importance of meeting the state and federal requirements for conducting the study were briefly discussed.

Staff discussed study options with TxDOT and FHWA. It is the recommendation of FHWA that the UPWP be amended to include a sub-task addressing a corridor study.

The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) reviewed the administrative change to the FY 2008-2009 UPWP.

1 Motion was made by Jeff Miller, seconded by Tom Speakman to approve the administrative change to the
2 draft FY 2008 - 2009 UPWP, raise it to \$80,000 and make sure to include Sub-Task 5.5 Sub-Area Corridor
3 Study. Motion passed unanimously.
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5 **III. Discussion and Action Concerning a Negotiated Cost of the Pictometry Digital Photography-**
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7 Mr. Wood reported to the Board that Pictometry is a revolutionary new digital color imaging system and
8 software program. This technology allows users to view high-resolution digital color images (aerial photos)
9 of a community from an oblique angle view. The Grayson County Appraisal District (GCAD) has entered
10 into a licensed agreement with the Pictometry Corporation to provide these high-resolution digital imagery
11 and software tools for communities within the county.
12

13 The Pictometry imagery displays features such as buildings, land area, roads, and hydrology to be viewed
14 from several directions and at different scales. It will allow a user to easily locate and accurately measure
15 any feature. The software and aerial imagery data has proven to be beneficial to assessors, planners,
16 engineers, conservation commissions, first responders and decision-makers.
17

18 With the expanded MPO boundary the MPO needs to expand its digital photography database to
19 include this additional area.
20

21 Peggy Shelley, 911 Manager for the Texoma Council of Governments reported to the TPB that she has
22 recently taken on the challenge of coordinating the efforts by several organizations in obtaining Digital
23 images. This is a cost savings effort in order not to duplicate expenses. Since 2 of the 3 counties in the
24 Texoma region already used Pictometry including Grayson Appraisal District it became evident that
25 combining all the efforts of these agencies would result in the desired cost savings. Additionally Pictometry
26 products is currently the only source of the images that integrate into 911 call taking equipment.
27

28 In 2003 the MPO acquired 1 foot resolution digital photography for the old boundary of 370 square miles
29 for \$41,000. The new photographs with will include obliques as wells as Ortho photos will cost
30 approximately \$22,160 for the new area of 554 square miles BEFORE cost sharing.
31

32 Bobby Littlefield asked if there was a need for this update, Mr. Wood expressed that the need is there due
33 to changes such as the Sherman Towne Center and the MPO boundary expansion. However, since the
34 product can be shared by 911 with the MPO, the expenditure may not be necessary. Mayor Bill Magers
35 asked for an explanation of the shared cost between Fannin, Cooke and Grayson. Mr. Wood explained the
36 ‘regional collective effort’ for the project. Mayor Magers asked if Grayson County was going to save
37 money by going with this joint effort. Ms Shelly explained the allocated funds were for the three counties.
38 Mr. Littlefield asked for clarification “If we don’t spend this money will we (MPO) still have access to this
39 information?” Mr. Wood said “yes”.
40

41 Motion was made by Tom Speakman, seconded by Bobby Littlefield to not participate in funding assistance
42 for the Pictometry. Motion passed unanimously.
43

44 **IV. Discussion and Action concerning the FY 2008-2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)-**
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46 Mr. Johnson reported to the Board that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) consists of

1 transportation planning projects within the Sherman-Denison metropolitan planning area for which federal
2 assistance is sought. The UPWP includes detailed description of transportation and transportation planning
3 activities for FY 2008 - 2009. The draft document was submitted to Transportation Planning and
4 Programming (TPP) at TxDOT, Public Transportation Division (PTN) at FTA, and FHWA for their review
5 and comments.

6
7 Two year UPWP facts:

- 8 • The funding cycle estimates cover a two year period
- 9 • Internally (fiscal agent administration) billings show expenditures against 2-year budgets
- 10 • The MPO/TPB has the flexibility of keeping the UPWP a dynamic document in that amendments can/will
11 allow for adapting to changing needs/issues
- 12 • Annual Compliance Certifications are required.

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14 The Transportation Policy Board reviewed the document. Motion was made by Bobby Littlefield,
15 seconded by Tom Speakman to approve the FY 2008-2009 UPWP as presented. Motion passed
16 unanimously.

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19 **V. Discussion and Action Concerning the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) Request to Place the**
20 **North Dallas Toll Road Extension Into Grayson County -**

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22 Mr. Johnson reported that in the tollway is discussed in the long range plan and recognized as a need. The
23 RMA is requesting the MPO to consider placing the North Texas Tollway Road extension into Grayson
24 County.

25
26 Mr. Van Price spoke before the board asking, on behalf of the RMA, to place the North Texas Tollway
27 Road extension in the long range plan. By incorporating the tollway in the long range plan the RMA can
28 continue and take its next step at its next meeting. Mr. Littlefield asked about the funding information for
29 the project, Mr. Wood stated it could be forth coming from the TxDOT area office. Mr. Littlefield
30 reminded the board that ‘this is not a TxDOT project’.

31
32 Motion was made by Jeff Miller, seconded by Tom Speakman to authorizes the staff to take the necessary
33 steps to include the North Texas Tollway Road extension into Grayson County. Motion passed
34 unanimously.

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37 **VI. Discussion and Action Concerning the City of Denison Request to Place the SAFE ROUTES TO**
38 **SCHOOL Program in the MPO’s Transportation Plans Should the Grant be Approved-**

39
40 Mr. Johnson reported to the Board that on May 29, 2007, the City of Denison submitted a grant request to
41 the Texas Department of Transportation for the Safe Routes to School program. The purpose of the request
42 was to prepare a plan to determine the needs for different modes of travel for students to and from school,
43 needs of additional infrastructures and the level of interest for bike routes around their schools. Should the
44 plan be approved, they are requesting the MPO place this program in the planning documents.

45
46 Mr. Littlefield asked that if approved there be an action item to place in the TIP. The board agreed.

1 Motion was made by Jeff Miller, seconded by Bobby Littlefield to authorize the staff to place the Safe
2 Routes to School program in the planning documents should the plan be approved. Motion passed
3 unanimously.
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5 **VII. Rotating Small Cities -**
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7 Mr. Wood explained the board’s policy regarding the two year cycle for small cities representative. The
8 staff asked the city of Howe (via letter) to send a representative. Per Mr. Wood the Howe city manager
9 asked to defer to Mr. Offill. There has been no formal response. The staff asked for guidance as to the next
10 step. Mr. Miller stated that he would like to find out more regarding the ‘Howe situation’ before any vote
11 is taken. He recommended that the board table the item. Mr. Magers spoke on the subject by stating he
12 had received ‘an awful lot of e-mails from Steve in Howe and some other folks. I also spoke with the TBP
13 chairman last night’ regarding the subject. He stated that Howe wanted to have a representative and he
14 wanted to speak to them (Howe) before any action is taken. He requested the item be tabled.
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16 Motion was made by Jeff Miller, seconded by Tom Speakman to table Item VI A and B. Motion passed
17 unanimously.
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19 **VIII. Public Comment Period**
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21 Mayor Magers, city of Sherman, announced to the board that the city council appointed him to the board.
22 He stated that with the growth coming to the area, citing as an example the expansion of SH289, the city
23 of Sherman has looked at transportation really hard. The city council would like to see the board (TPB)
24 set up a technical board ‘of the pros’. That make the miles come true and work hand in glove. The city
25 of Sherman felt it was important to have elected officials on the board and would like the board to consider
26 the setup of a technical committee. He felt that ‘policy’ and ‘technical issues’ are two separate entities.
27

28 Comments were heard by Bill Herrington, city manager of Van Alstyne - He requested this item (small
29 cities rotation) be tabled to give Van Alstyne a chance to be there for discussion. Danny Offill was not able
30 to make meeting due to death in the family. Mr. Harrington stated that they could like to see a
31 representative of their city appointed to the board because of the growth in that part of the county. By
32 appointing Mr. Offill he would have the experience to serve on the board.
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34 Bobby Littlefield commented that he has heard “grumbling” from Southern Grayson County and thinks
35 Board should discuss changing number of Board composition and put representative from Southern
36 Grayson County on Board. He also requested Bob Wood to canvas MPO Boards to see how their Board
37 composition is determined, if by population or other variables. Mr. Littlefield also stated that term limits
38 need more consideration. Mr. Littlefield also asked what the By-Laws state as far as who can serve on
39 Board and what it says about Board makeup. He requested to see what is written and how the Board is
40 made up.
41

42 Bobby Littlefield invited all to Texas A&M at Commerce the following Friday for the 2nd Annual
43 NETMOB conference.
44

45 **IX. Adjournment-**

46 The TPB meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.