

ABILENE URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

January 14, 2005

The Abilene MPO Transportation Policy Board met at 8:30 a.m., Friday, January 14, 2005, in the Taylor County Courthouse, Jury Assembly Room, 300 Oak Street, Abilene, Texas.

Members Present:

Andy Anderson, City of Abilene
Norm Archibald, City of Abilene
Joe Clark, TxDOT
Jim Compton, WCTCOG
James Condry, City of Abilene
Blair Haynie, TxDOT
Alan Hufstedler, TxDOT
Jon James, City of Abilene
Ross Jones, Chamber of Commerce
Russell Lenz, TxDOT
Bob Lindley, City of Abilene
George Newman, Taylor County
Buzz Wylie, Jones County

Others Present:

Robert Allen, Abilene MPO
Jeremy Brown, Congressman Neugebauer's Office
Ben Finley, Abilene MPO

Chairman George Newman noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman Newman presented the minutes of the September 24, 2004 meeting for review and approval. A motion was made by Blair Haynie and seconded by Ross Jones to approve the minutes as printed of the September 24, 2004 MPO Policy Board meeting. The motion was approved.

Ben Finley, Abilene MPO Transportation Planner, presented the proposed 2005-2030 Abilene Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). He gave a power point presentation on the proposed MTP and the changes from the current 2000-2025 MTP. The MTP is the long range plan for the Abilene MPO. Under current law, it must be updated at least once every five years. The current MTP was approved on January 14, 2000, and an update must be approved by January 14, 2005, or the plan will be considered to have lapsed. The US Department of Transportation

would not be able to approve any new project lettings or environmental documents during a lapse.

The proposed 2005-2030 MTP is an update of the 2000-2025 MTP that also includes new assumptions about urban growth in the Abilene area. The 2005-2030 MTP has been coordinated with the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Abilene.

Key transportation factors in the 2005-2030 MTP are continued emphases on safety, maintenance and repair, and operational improvements, with only limited growth in system capacity. Most of the new capacity is forecasted to be in the form of increased capacity on existing roadways. Only one new alignment is foreseen during the 26 years of the MTP, an extension of Loop 322 north of IH-20. The MTP includes a planning study on the feasibility of extending FM 707 as a loop to the east and north.

During the presentation, board members noted specific corrections to be made.

There was discussion about the Dyess north entry project, the conversion of frontage roads to one-way, and the SH 36 redevelopment project.

Chairman Newman expressed concern that the Board's consideration of this major item was on the date that it had to be approved or be considered as lapsed. He requested that in the future the Board be given more time for review of major items.

James Condry, Chairman of the Technical Committee, reported that the Technical Committee had reviewed with the MPO staff a list of key projects and provided direction for their presentation in the proposed MTP. The draft document itself was not reviewed by the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee endorses the concept of the proposed 2005-2030 as an update of the 2000-2025 MTP with project modification as included.

Chairman Newman provided an opportunity for public comment. There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Condry noted that the document had a number of errors, mostly typographical in nature, that need to be corrected.

A motion was made by Bob Lindley and seconded by Norm Archibald to approve the proposed 2005-2030 MTP subject to corrections and revisions noted by the Board members. The motion was approved.

Chairman Newman expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board for all the work done by Mr. Allen and Mr. Finley in preparing the proposed 2005-2030 MTP.

Robert Allen, MPO Transportation Planning Director, addressed the scheduling of regular quarterly meetings for the remainder of calendar year 2005. There is sufficient business to hold a meeting at least once a quarter. Meetings in mid to late April and July are necessary to approve the Transportation Improvement Program and the Unified Planning Work Program. He recommended that regular meetings be scheduled at 1:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the first month of each calendar quarter. The regular meeting dates for the remainder of calendar year 2005 would be April 19, July 19, and October 18. Additional meetings may be called as needed.

A motion was made by Ross Jones and seconded by Norm Archibald to approve the proposed quarterly meetings for the MPO Policy Board for 2005. The motion was approved.

Chairman Newman turned the meeting over to Vice-Chairman Condry and left the meeting at 9:35 a.m. to attend a scheduled court proceeding.

Vice-Chairman Condry provided an opportunity for the public to speak on any metropolitan transportation issues. There were no comments from the public.

Vice-Chairman Condry provided an opportunity for the Board and staff to address any transportation issues.

Mr. Allen stated that the MPO staff would provide the Board members with a copy of the 2005-2030 MTP after the revisions and corrections were made.

Mr. Finley reported that CityLink will hold a public meeting on proposed new route to serve the southeast part of the City. It will be at 2:00 p.m., on Monday, January 24, 2005, at the CityLink facility.

Mr. Haynie reported that TxDOT will hold a public meeting on the relocation of ramps and the conversion of frontage roads to one-way operation along I-20 between Tye and the Winters Freeway. It will be at 6:30 p.m., with registration beginning at 6:00 p.m., on Thursday, February 17, at the TxDOT Abilene Area office.

There being no further business to discuss, Vice-Chairman Condry asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Ross Jones and seconded by Jim Compton to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved.

Vice-Chairman Condry adjourned the meeting at 9:41 a.m.