



**POLICY BOARD MEETING
February 23, 2009
MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the MOTOR Policy Board was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on February 23, 2009 in the Motor Conference Room at the Wright Office Complex by Policy Board Chairman, Dr. Jimmy Goates.

Policy Board Members Present:

Dr. Jimmy Goates, Chairman, Councilman, City of Odessa
Lauren Garduño, District Engineer, TxDOT-Odessa District
Jerry Morales, Councilman, City of Midland
Susan Redford, Ector County Judge
Mike Bradford, Midland County Judge

Others in Attendance:

Mike McAnally, Director of Operations, TxDOT-Odessa District
Matt Squyres, Director of Public Works, City of Odessa
Bill Hodge, GIS Division Manager, City of Midland
James Beachamp, MOTRAN Executive Director
Drew Crutcher, 2030 Committee Member
Robin Donnelly
Melba E. Owens, MOTOR Executive Director
Stephanie Fuentes, MOTOR Senior Transportation Planner
Robert Wall, MOTOR/WTO Transportation Planner
Angela Wolf, MOTOR Administrative Planning Assistant

AGENDA ITEM

2. Announcements and Introductions

Melba Owens, MPO Executive Director, introduced James Beachamp, MOTRAN Executive Director and Drew Crutcher, 2030 Committee Member. Both will be giving short presentations today.

6. La Entrada Annual Report Presentation by James Beachamp, Executive Director, MOTRAN; and 2030 Committee Updates Presented by Drew Crutcher, 2030 Committee Member and President of Landgraf, Crutcher & Associates, Odessa, Texas.

Mr. James Beauchamp, Executive Director of MOTRAN, presented the 2008 annual report for the La Entrada Al Pacifico. He provided an update on the progress that is being made on this trade corridor, the corridor to the Pacific, that will develop an economically viable trade corridor, in partnership with Mexico, that is proposed to provide economic stimulus and new jobs for the Permian Basin. This corridor is proposed to increase the movement of goods and people from the Pacific port of Topolobampo northeast to Odessa-Midland, and then on to points in the northern, eastern and western United States. The La Entrada Al Pacifico Trade Corridor was designated by an act of the Texas Legislature and signed into law by then Governor George W. Bush in 1997.

2030 Committee Report Updates – Ms. Owens gave the following background:

In May, 2008, Texas Transportation Commission Chair Deirdre Delisi, at the request of Texas governor Rick Perry, appointed a volunteer committee of 12 experienced and respected business leaders designated as the 2030 Committee. Mr. Drew Crutcher was one of the appointees to this Committee. The Committee's charge was to provide an independent, authoritative assessment of the state's transportation infrastructure and mobility needs from 2009-2030. The 2030 Committee's work was conducted in a short timeframe of six (6) months. The Committee conducted public hearings throughout the State to solicit public input to assist them in making their recommendations. Mr. Crutcher made it possible for several of us to speak to the 2030 Committee Members and address the transportation needs in our region at the public hearing that was conducted in Amarillo, Texas in September, 2008.

Mr. Crutcher gave the Board some updates on the 2030 Committee's Final Report that will be presented to the Legislature during the current Legislative Session. The report can also be found on TxDOT's website.

3. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Goates noted an error under Agenda Item #6. A Motion was made by Jerry Morales and seconded by Jerry Morales, to accept and approve the minutes of the January 26, 2009 Policy Board Meeting with the correction made. The Motion passed unanimously as follows:

Dr. Jimmy Goates	Aye
Jerry Morales	Aye
Lauren Garduño	Aye
Judge Susan Redford	Aye
Judge Mike Bradford	Aye

4. Public Comment Period

Mr. Robin Donnelly asked Dr. Goates if he was going to go to Austin to ask them to index the motor tax. Dr. Goates indicated that according to the Senators this will likely happen. Mr. Donnelly indicated it could go forward on both federal and state levels.

5. Finance Report

Angela Wolf, MPO Administrative Planning Assistant, gave the following report:
The report submitted to you today reflects a total expenditure of \$31,092.78 for the month of December, 2008, giving us a current programmed balance of \$789,888.53, and a current authorized fund balance of \$679,634.37.

We are now 33% expended in our programmed budget allocations. Individual task breakdowns are provided in your report. The slight increase in expenditures in December, 2008 over November, 2008 resulted from payments to Wilbur Smith & Associates for work performed on our MTP Development/Scenario Planning/Community Visioning project.

Ms. Melba Owens, MPO Executive Director, gave the following report:
We have received verbal confirmation from TP&P staff that we will receive the carry forward balance for FY 2008 in the amount of \$360,644.56. However, we have over programmed by \$110,000. We were given figures that we worked with and estimates that we projected and doubled. With the figures that we had we are under our programmed amount for \$1,174,567.31. However, we had a substantial carry forward from FY 2006 – FY 2007 that was infused into our budget. For that reason we are going to be okay. We have looked at our entire task amounts and we can adjust the figures within the tasks without any major impact to any projects or salaries. The largest obligation we will have is in Task 4 for Wilbur Smith & Associates for the MTP development.

We have requested funds from the Public Transportation Division in Austin for the MPO to conduct a feasibility study. If this request is approved at the Commission Meeting on Thursday, February 26, 2009, we would be authorized an additional \$60,000 in our FY 2009 UPWP. Plans are to develop a proposal for the coordinated call in the summer of 2009 that will request additional funds for the MPO to continue feasibility studies for the intercity transportation connections.

In addition EZ Rider has included funds in the amount of \$500,000 in their stimulus package request for MPO planning/GIS software/hardware, and Travel Demand Model software/hardware that, if approved, would become a part of our FY 2009 UPWP.

MPO Staff Recommendation:

Recommend approval of the Financial Report as submitted.

A Motion was made by Judge Mike Bradford and seconded by Judge Susan Redford to approve the Finance Report as submitted. The Motion passed unanimously as follows:

Dr. Jimmy Goates	Aye
Jerry Morales	Aye
Lauren Garduño	Aye
Judge Susan Redford	Aye
Judge Mike Bradford	Aye

7. Approval of revised list of Economic Recovery Bill Projects to be included in 2008-2011 TIP and 2005-2030 MTP Amendments, and approval of recommendations for leveraging these projects for consideration by the Transportation Commission on Thursday, February 26, 2009. A Special Called Policy Board Meeting will be Conducted on Monday, March 2, 2009 to Approve Resolutions adopting fiscally constrained project amendments for the 2008-2011 TIP and the 2005-2030 MTP for submission to TP&P in Austin by close of business on Tuesday, March 3, 2009. The TIP/MTP submissions will be based on the actual amount of economic stimulus funds to be distributed to/leveraged by the MPOs, and upon the Commission's selection of eligible projects on February 26, 2009

Ms. Owens gave the following background and report:

The list of projects that were submitted for your consideration at the January 26, 2009 Policy Board Meeting had Proposition 14 projects that we discovered would not be eligible for economic stimulus bill funding. Those were changed in the 2008-2011 TIP amendment to reflect Proposition 14 funding prior to their release for public comment/review. We also added the Midkiff Interchange project as a project that would be eligible for economic stimulus bill funding prior to release for public comment/review. Our total construction estimate for economic stimulus package funding was \$39,070,000.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was signed by the President on Tuesday, February 17, 2009. The Texas apportionment was 8.44% of the national total or \$2,250,015,146. Of that amount, 67% will be sub-allocated to the Commission, or a total of \$1,507,510,148 for discretionary funding. A total of 30% will be sub-allocated across the state based on population. The funding sub-allocation for the MOTOR MPO is estimated to be \$9,921,637. The total estimated sub-allocation to the TxDOT District for rural areas is \$3,209,480.

Once these figures were provided to us, we began working with the TxDOT-Odessa District to see how we might be able to leverage our projects with Commission discretionary funds to advance as many of our projects as possible. We met in a special called meeting with the Technical Advisory Committee on Thursday, February 19, 2009 at which time they decided by unanimous vote on four (4) leveraging scenarios to be recommended forward for your approval at today's meeting. If approved by you today, these four (4) leveraging scenarios will be available for the Commission to consider at their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 26, 2009, when they are identifying projects that will receive stimulus funds. A chart reflecting the four (4) leveraging scenarios is attached for your review/consideration.

Mrs. Stephanie Fuentes, MOTOR Senior Transportation Planner and Mr. Robert Wall, MOTOR/WTO Transportation Planner went over the chart with the Board.

The Commission will evaluate projects that are ready to start in the time allotted by the bill and also meet the following set of criteria agreed to by TxDOT and MPO staffs:

- Projects that improve the safety of the transportation system.
- Projects on corridors of statewide significance or regional priority.
- Projects that leverage or pool resources.
- Projects that create long term economic benefit to the communities and region they serve.
- Projects in areas that are economically distressed.
- A fair and equitable distribution of projects around the State.

Once the Commission decides on the projects that will be selected, we will make any revisions to our 2008-2011 TIP and 2005-2030 MTP to become fiscally constrained, and conduct a special called Policy Board Meeting on Monday, March 2, 2009 to approve Resolutions adopting fiscally constrained project amendments for submission to TP&P in Austin by close of business on Tuesday, March 3, 2009. The TIP/MTP submission will be based on the actual amount of economic stimulus funds to be distributed to/leveraged by the MPOs, and upon the Commission's selection of eligible projects on February 26, 2009. No public comments were received during the 10-day public review period.

Certain revisions were made to the TIP Transit section to adjust figures for the amount of economic stimulus funds estimated to be received by the Odessa District.

MPO Staff Recommendation:

We recommend approval of the project list and four (4) leveraging scenarios as presented; and, approval of the transit revisions as submitted.

A Motion was made by Jerry Morales and seconded by Judge Mike Bradford to accept the four (four) scenarios and transit revisions as submitted. The Motion passed unanimously as follows:

Dr. Jimmy Goates	Aye
Jerry Morales	Aye
Lauren Garduño	Aye
Judge Susan Redford	Aye
Judge Mike Bradford	Aye

8. Pictometry Presentation by Bill Hodge, GIS Division, City of Midland, and approval to move forward with participation in the purchase of Pictometry Software/Images. The total dollar participation will depend on the amount of the FY 2009 MPO UPWP authorization (to include FY 2008 carry forward funds), and on the amount of economic stimulus funds that might become available to the MOTOR MPO in FY 2009.

Ms. Owens gave the following background:

Over the past year, Mr. Bill Hodge, GIS Division Manager, City of Midland, has introduced the MOTOR MPO Staff to a visual intelligence system called Pictometry. Pictometry is a unique patented information system that combines aerial imaging with a state-of-the art software system that has the ability to provide visual intelligence unlike any other system available. Applications for this groundbreaking information system are

as varied: from public safety agencies, assessors, homeland security and emergency response teams, to planners, engineering firms, and land developers.

We believe that this software would be of definite advantage to the MPO in future planning efforts. A user can access any and every square foot of a region within seconds and then glean and enhance data for easy communication. Community oblique imagery provides an excellent perspective of property and road systems in a one square mile area. Software can be integrated with this system would allow us to visualize different land uses or in-fill on a given tract of land. This would be an excellent tool in our community workshop sessions.

Mr. Hodge gave a short power point presentation and showed a short Pictometry video.

MPO Staff Recommendation:

The MOTOR MPO would ask for approval to participate in the purchase of this system for the region. The total dollar participation will depend on the amount of the FY 2009 MPO UPWP authorization (to include FY 2008 carry forward funds), and on the amount of economic stimulus funds that might become available to the MOTOR MPO in FY 2009.

Dr. Jimmy Goates stated there would be no action on this item until we have the money in hand. However they will take the recommendation and bring that forward should the money become available.

9. MPO Staff Reports: (Including, but not limited to):

9a. Executive Director attended a one day workshop at TxDOT-Austin on February 9, 2009 regarding economic stimulus bill funding for projects.

9b. Intercity Fixed Route Feasibility Study – to be considered by the Transportation Commission at their February 26, 2009 meeting.

9c. Implementation of a project reporting system.

The MPO staff is working to develop a new project reporting format for all reporting agencies. This report will be designed to include a layman's description of the project, total project costs, local contribution, contractor information, letting dates, work commence dates, percentage of completion in schematic design work, public involvement, environmental clearances, preparation of plans, specifications and estimates, right of way acquisition, utility adjustments, construction activities, estimated completion date, and any current activity and status. There might also be a section for reporting number of jobs created on all economic stimulus funded projects. This type of reporting is utilized by other MPOs in the state, and has been very effective in keeping the Policy Boards advised of the latest information on a given project.

9d. Our second Community Workshop for the 2010-2035 MTP development was conducted on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 at the Atmos Energy Fischer Community Room. A Stakeholders group Meeting was conducted at the same location on Tuesday morning February 4, 2009. Both meetings were well attended and highly productive.

Based upon the ideas generated at the workshop and the meeting with the Planning Directors in both communities, the Project Team generated a set of four (4) alternative growth scenarios for those in attendance at the workshop to evaluate. Those were: Urban Center Scenario, Suburban Center Scenario, Corridor Scenario, and a Trend/Current Policy Scenario. The goal of this workshop was for participants to identify a preferred future growth scenario and discuss issues related to achieving it. The result was a decision for the preferred scenario be primarily a combination of the corridor and urban scenarios. Each scenario was evaluated through performance measures that rated the corridor scenario number one, and the urban scenario number two. A final summary will be presented by the Wilbur Smith project team at the Technical Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2009, and to the Policy Board at the Monday, March 16, 2009 meeting.

10. Project Reports

TxDOT-Odessa District - Mike McAnally gave the following updates:

JBS is still looking at the early part of May for completion.

Reliever Route's first half has started. Segment two has not started.

Holiday Hill Road is moving along well.

Faudree Road should be starting the signal job at BI-20 before too long.

City of Midland - none

County of Midland - none

City of Odessa - none

County of Ector - none

11. Conduct Executive Session concerning any and all subjects and for any and all purposes permitted by Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, including, but not limited to:

- a. Texas Government Code Section 551.071 for the purpose of consulting with the Board's attorney;**
- b. Texas Government Code Section 551.072 to deliberate the purchase, lease or value of real property;**
- c. Texas Government Code Section 551.074 to discuss personnel matters.**

The Policy Board did not go into an Executive Session.

12. Take action concerning Executive Session matters.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

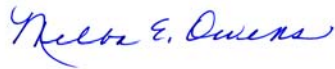
13. Adjourn.

Lauren Garduño made the Motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Judge Susan Redford. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

Dr. Jimmy Goates	Aye
Jerry Morales	Aye
Lauren Garduño	Aye
Judge Susan Redford	Aye
Judge Mike Bradford	Aye

A Special Called Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 2, 2009, in the MOTOR Conference Room at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted and approved by:



Melba E. Owens, Executive Director