



**POLICY BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 15, 2009  
MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the MOTOR Policy Board was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on June 15, 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  
Mike McAnally, District Engineer, TxDOT-Odessa District  
Robin Donnelly, Midland County Commissioner  
Jerry Morales, Councilman, City of Midland

**Policy Board Members Not Present:**

Susan Redford, Ector County Judge

**Others in Attendance:**

Matt Squyres, Director of Public Works, City of Odessa  
Matt Carr, Transportation Planning & Development, TxDOT-Odessa District  
Bill Hodge, GIS Division Manager, City of Midland  
Edward Esparza, General Manager, EZ Rider  
Joshua Crawford, Musketball Technologies  
Don Byrne, Human Resources Director, City of Odessa  
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**

There were no announcements or introductions.

**3. Approval of May 18, 2009 Minutes**

A Motion was made by Mike McAnally and seconded by Jerry Morales to accept and approve the minutes of the May 18, 2009 Policy Board Meeting as submitted. The Motion passed unanimously as follows:

Dr. Jimmy Goates     Aye  
Mike McAnally        Aye  
Robin Donnelly        Aye  
Jerry Morales         Aye

**4. Public Comment Period**

There were no comments from the public.

**5. Finance Report**

Angela Wolf, MPO Administrative Planning Assistant, gave the following report:  
The report submitted reflected a total expenditure of \$53,851.41 for the month of April 2009 giving us a current authorized balance of \$461,391.96.

MOTOR is now 57% expended in authorized budget allocations. Individual task breakdowns were provided in each member's report. The increase in expenditures in April 2009 over March 2009 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:  
MOTOR MPO staff has started work on the Intercity Bus Study. Cheri Bush, Project Manager, Wilbur Smith & Associates, joined us later in the meeting to discuss the results of our beginning public outreach efforts which occurred June 2<sup>nd</sup> - June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The MPO was awarded \$60,000 by the Transportation Commission to conduct a feasibility study for park and ride transfers, and an intercity transportation connection between Midland and Odessa on State Highway 191. This study will assist and support EZ Rider and All Aboard America's joint proposal for funds for the intercity connections.

**MPO Staff Recommendation:**

Recommend approval of the Financial Report as submitted.

A Motion was made by Mike McAnally and seconded by Jerry Morales to approve the Finance Report as submitted. The Motion passed unanimously as follows:

Dr. Jimmy Goates     Aye  
Mike McAnally        Aye  
Robin Donnelly        Aye  
Jerry Morales         Aye

**6. Presentation/Approval of Draft 2010-2011 UPWP.**

Ms. Owens gave the following background and report:  
**Budget Introduction:** The MOTOR MPO Staff has dedicated the past several weeks to evaluating our budget needs for the FY 2010-2011 UPWP. This budget is structurally balanced, with anticipated authorizations meeting all proposed expenditures, and will yield a decrease in total proposed expenditures over those experienced over the past two

years. We have given careful consideration to the needs of each specific UPWP Task, and believe that the budget draft presented reflects new vision and direction for the MPO. This new vision will effectively and efficiently address regional planning initiatives that will increase efficiencies, yield cost savings, encourage cost sharing with regional partners, and increase the opportunity for the MPO to apply for additional planning funds as a result of this regionally coordinated effort.

Budget Highlights:

- MPO Staff will begin developing a regional level operations plan that will include the development and implementation of system performance measures and identification of performance problems, gaps and opportunities in the transportation improvement programs. Regional approaches will be used to plan for reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through transportation planning processes. Strategies may include reduced VMT through increased transit oriented development, addressing land use practices, including infill, and increasing system efficiencies;
- The MPO Staff will begin research to determine the feasibility of a Regional Transportation Management Center that may be created as a multi-jurisdictional control facility to enhance and support advanced transportation management capabilities (i.e. Intelligent Transportation System Architecture) for the region. A multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional center would improve the efficiency of traffic, incident, emergency and transit management; provide real-time, useful and timely information so travelers can make smart travel choices; and yield construction, operations and maintenance cost savings. The FHWA is in support of this plan development, and will be providing training at a workshop that will be sponsored by the MOTOR MPO in July 2009 that will address the steps for the effective implementation of a regional concept for transportation operations. This concept was also recommended by the Kimley-Horn project team in their final report for the Midessa Study that was adopted by the MOTOR MPO Policy Board in June 2007. Multi-jurisdictional coordination begins to line the MPO up for the possibility of multiple sources of planning funds, and possible in-kind matches for release of federal/state funds.
- MPO Staff will begin evaluating a centralized 9-1-1 command center for the region to maximize emergency response times and to avoid duplication of agency emergency responses. A multi-agency centralized command center, that would be part of the Regional Transportation Center referenced above, would yield system efficiencies and substantial cost savings. This, too, was one of the recommendations of the Kimley-Horn Midessa Study submitted in June 2007. A copy of the Kimley-Horn final study report and its Architecture recommendations for the region was in each member's notebooks.
- MPO Staff will continue working with Consultant in conducting Intercity Bus Route Feasibility Studies that will be conducted in FY 2010-2011 on BI20 and IH20. These studies will be funded with 5304 FTA funds and will be managed under separate contracts with the FTA.
- Funds have been included to allow for plan development for the finish-out/furnishing of the expanded 1,300 square feet of space in the back of our current offices as an area in

which FHWA/FTA/TxDOT/GIS training can be conducted throughout each fiscal year. This space will also be utilized for regional/community visioning workshops and town hall meetings for discussing regional transportation issues. This space can also be utilized for a place to begin Regional Transportation Manager Center operations. The MPO Staff will explore grant availability for assisting in the total finish-out/furnishing costs of this space.

- Funds have been included in the travel/training budget accounts for the MPO Staff to travel to and study with cities exhibiting best practices when embarking on new program/plan development.
- MPO proposes to hire a full time Mobility Manager that will fill the data development and analysis Task 2 assignments previously performed by Transportation Planner, Abel Gamez. The new position will require expanded coordination assignments for the regional public transportation providers.

At this time, Ms. Owens gave a slide presentation.

Chapter 461 of the Texas Transportation Code requires coordination of public transportation services funded with federal, state, or local funds. In 2005, SAFETEA-LU authorized federal expenditures for a wide range of transportation programs including public transportation. SAFETEA-LU also requires the establishment of a locally developed coordinated public transit, human services transportation plan for programs funded by FTA.

The Regional Service Plan for Coordinated Transportation in the Permian Basin was published in December 2006. The funds for the development of the Regional Service Plan were provided by the MOTOR MPO. The MOTOR MPO has supported the Regional Service Plan Group since that time through hosting meetings, and more recently through the partnership with West Texas Opportunities for a 50-50 shared transportation planner who manages the Regional Service Plan activities.

TxDOT PTN has now decided to make adjustments to the regional service planning efforts throughout the State. The 24 Planning Regions in Texas will now be required to compete for \$4.23 million of funding available to planning of FY 2010-2012. Reimbursement for planning activities will now be deliverable based. The efficacy of funded programs will now be established through performance measurement. Performance will determine the level of funding that will be released to the region in the future. The Division is highly encouraging the establishing of a Mobility Manager position to coordinate all regional public transportation service delivery to eliminate redundancies, close service gaps, generate efficiencies, and ensure that all goals/deliverables are met. TxDOT PTN is also highly encouraging the MPOs to become involved in supporting the regional public transportation planning/coordinating initiatives.

The MOTOR MPO has decided to take a lead in this initiative for the region. We would like to propose that the MOTOR MPO become the lead agency for the Regional Service Plan. We would leverage the amount of funding for the Permian Basin Regional Service Plan by providing the salary/benefits of the Mobility Manager. If we are approved by the

FTA, the funds for administering the program would be paid to the MOTOR MPO in an amount of \$60,000 plus a year for the next three (3) years.

The Mobility Manager would develop a customer-driven, market-based approach to public transportation delivery that offers a variety of individualized travel options. This will require close coordination with the fixed route urban provider. The Mobility Management Program Plan will be developed to make innovative use of the transit resources to respond to the demands of customers, which may include providing non-traditional services such as vanpool, ride-share, or demand-responsive services. The Plan may implement technologies that increase travel options and/or convenience for the customer and provide information on all modes at a single coordinated website.

- Funds for the continued partnership with West Texas Opportunities for a 50-50 share of a Transportation Planner to provide transportation planning services/support; and a College Intern Program to offer additional transportation planning services/support. Transportation planning services/support will include, but not be limited to, the following: Perform research to address issues that may arise in the operation of the Urban and Rural Transit systems and pursue studies arising from the local evaluation of multi-modal transportation services; and, assist with other studies that may be determined of value in the evaluation of transportation projects and services to include a freight movement/inland port study. Services/Support will also include research of grant availability/eligibility requirements for regional planning, and developing Coordinated Call proposals for regional planning initiatives.

**MPO Staff Recommendation:**

The Draft 2010-2011 UPWP has been presented in private workshops with the TxDOT-Odessa District Staff and the Technical Advisory Committee Members who recommended approval of the Draft 2010-2011 UPWP, with a few recommended changes which have been made in the document submitted today. Fred Marquez, TP&P Austin, and Karen Dunlap, PTN, Austin, have also reviewed the draft document. PTN had no recommendations for changes, and TP&P made a few recommendations for clerical corrections.

We recommend approval of the Draft FY 2010-2011 UPWP as submitted.

A Motion was made by Robin Donnelly and seconded by Jerry Morales to approve the Draft FY 2010-2011 UPWP as submitted. The Motion passed unanimously as follows:

Dr. Jimmy Goates	Aye
Mike McAnally	Aye
Robin Donnelly	Aye
Jerry Morales	Aye

**7. Update on Intercity Transit Feasibility Study – Cheri Bush, Wilbur Smith & Associates, joined us by phone for this discussion.**

Ms. Owens gave the following background:

The first series of visits and the beginning of the public participation process got underway on June 2<sup>nd</sup> – June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009. A variety of activities occurred during Cheri's visit. Cheri Bush and the MOTOR MPO Staff rode Routes 6, 2 and 3 with EZ Rider in Odessa, and two routes with EZ Rider in Midland. Community surveys were handed to passengers to get their input on the need for an intercity route. We also set up a booth at the Music City Mall in Odessa, and distributed the community surveys to shoppers at the mall. We were not able to get this set up with property management at the Midland Park Mall for this visit. Meetings were conducted with a key stakeholder group consisting of representatives of Midland and Odessa, TxDOT, EZ Rider, and other relevant agencies.

Cheri Bush joined us by conference call and gave the preliminary results from our public outreach/community surveys. An Intercity Bus Study Progress Report was included in each packet.

### **8. MPO Staff Reports: (Including, but not limited to):**

**8a. Interactive Website Map update.** This interactive map tool developed by Project Team Member, Joshua Crawford, Musketball Technologies, is giving the public an opportunity to report transportation related problems/concerns/issues that they feel need to be addressed in the 2010-2035 MTP development process. Several posts have been made to the site. Reports will be available for analysis purposes. We will be working with City and County Staffs to make the interactive map link available on the Cities' and Counties' websites.

Josh Crawford was in attendance to discuss some of the reports that we will be able to generate for MPO Staff review/analysis of the posts that are made to the site. To date there have been approximately 70 new original posts spread throughout the map. We were also able to have the map tool linked on the City of Odessa website. He attempted to do so with Midland as well but the key player is on maternity leave at this time.

### **8b. AARA Project and Reporting Updates**

Stephanie Fuentes, Sr. Transportation Planner informed the Board that our March 6, 2009 submittal for TIP Amendments for our highway and transit projects has been approved by the FHWA and FTA.

The TIP Amendment for ARRA transit projects presented to the Board on April 20, 2009, will be approved in the STIP on June 22, 2009, and should be approved by the FTA a few days after June 22, 2009.

### **8c. 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session Updates**

**From Austin, Texas** – Some of the accomplishments of the 81st Legislature are as follows: Adopted the 2010-2011 biennial budget which reduces general revenue spending by 1.9 percent; Unanimous passage of new education reforms that focus on student growth and achievement to rate schools; a \$1.9 billion dollar increase in public education money; a \$1.2 billion dollar increase in higher education funding; added \$250 million in financial aid to make college affordable for 35,000 more students; reformed the Top Ten Percent rule to give the University of Texas more flexibility; tax cut which will benefit approximately

40,000 Texas small businesses; and projected \$9.1 billion dollars in the State's Rainy Day Fund.

The 81st Legislature adjourned without approving a "safety net" bill that would have granted a two-year continuance for the Texas Department of Transportation, the State Department of Insurance and three other agencies. Governor Perry will call a special session to reauthorize the Transportation Department and clear the way for using the \$2 billion in highway construction money. The agency will continue operating as usual until September 2010.

**8d. Joint Meeting Updates for:**

**Joint Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting conducted at MOTOR Conference Room on Tuesday, May 26, 2009;**

**Joint City Council Meeting conducted at the CEED Facility on Tuesday, May 26, 2009; and**

**Joint Chamber Meeting conducted at the MCM Elegante Hotel in Odessa on Wednesday, May 27, 2009;**

**Note: The MOTOR MPO Staff and Wilbur Smith & Associates Project Team had the opportunity at these Meetings to provide updates on the 2010-2035 MTP Development/Scenario Planning/Community Visioning Project.**

The slide presentation that was given to these groups was in each Board Member's notebook for review.

**8e. 2010-2035 MTP Project Evaluation Criteria/Meetings to prioritize projects scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009;**

Stephanie Fuentes, Senior Transportation Planner, gave an overview of the project evaluation criteria that has been developed to help prioritize MTP projects. She discussed committee meetings that are being planned for June 24th and June 25th, 2009 to gain input and consensus on the evaluation criteria.

**8f. FHWA Workshop will be hosted by the MOTOR MPO Staff in July 2009 that will include an overview of a Regional Concept for Transportation Operations and discussions on creating operations objectives, performance measures, and M&O strategies that can be included in the operations portion of our 2010-2035 MTP update.**

**9. Project Reports**

**TxDOT-Odessa District** – Project updates were in each member's packet. Mike McAnally advised the Board that some of the projects are further along than what was stated in the reports.

**City of Midland** - none

**County of Midland** - none

**City of Odessa** - none

County of Ector – none  
EZ Rider – none  
Regional Service Plan – none

**10. 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 went into an Executive Session.

**11. Take action concerning Executive Session matters.**

No action was taken in Executive Session.

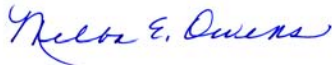
**12. Adjourn.**

Dr. Jimmy Goates made the Motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jerry Morales. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

Dr. Jimmy Goates	Aye
Mike McAnally	Aye
Robin Donnelly	Aye
Jerry Morales	Aye

The next scheduled Policy Board Meeting is Monday, July 20, 2009, in the MOTOR Conference Room at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted and approved by:



Melba E. Owens, Executive Director