



**POLICY BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 17, 2009
MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the MOTOR Policy Board was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on August 17, 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, Vice-Chair, Ector County Judge

Others in Attendance:

Matt Carr, Transportation Planning & Development, TxDOT-Odessa District
Bill Hodge, GIS Division Manager, City of Midland
Gary Law, Director TP&D, TxDOT-Odessa District
Bryan Raschke, Director of Operations, Tx-DOT-Odessa District
Kyle Womack, Parkhill, Smith & Cooper
Matt Squyres, Director of Public Works, City of Odessa
Alfredo Gonzales, Public Transportation Coordinator, TxDOT-Odessa District
Marwan Khoury, Director of Planning, City of Odessa
Edward Esparza, General Manager, MOUTD
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

Ms. Melba Owens introduced the two reporters who were in attendance. They were Geoff Folsom with Odessa American and Kathleen Thurber with Midland Reporter-Telegram. Also in attendance was Cheri Bush of Wilbur Smith & Associates.

3. Approval of July 20, 2009 Minutes

A Motion was made by Mike McAnally and seconded by Robin Donnelly to accept and approve the minutes of the July 20, 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 \$38,539.79 for the month of June 2009 giving us a current authorized balance of \$389,627.91.

MOTOR is now 63% expended in authorized budget allocations. Individual task breakdowns were provided in each member’s report. The increase in expenditures in June 2009 over May 2009 resulted from payments that were made in June 2009 to Wilbur Smith & Associates for work performed on our MTP Development/Scenario Planning/Community Visioning project.

Ms. Melba Owens, MPO Executive Director, informed the Board that we are well within budget and that we do anticipate some carry forward money.

MPO Staff Recommendation:

Recommend approval of the Financial Report as submitted.

A Motion was made by Jerry Morales and seconded by Robin Donnelly 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

7. Approval of Final Intercity Transit Feasibility Study Report – Cheri Bush, Wilbur Smith & Associates, was present to make the presentation.

Cheri Bush gave a presentation on the “Draft Final Report” which was included in everyone’s packet. She stated that she wanted to give the Board, Alfredo Gonzales, Edward Esparza and EZ-Rider an opportunity to look it over and offer any comments. Mrs. Bush informed the Board that this route is both feasible and wanted. However there is a big

difference between being wanted and actually happening. The report had further details including cost factors, possible routing and schedules.

MPO Staff Recommendation:

Recommend approval of the Draft Final Report as submitted.

Dr. Goates stated the approval could wait until the actual Final Report is submitted.

6. Approval of MTP Project Prioritization Process – David Freidenfeld, Project Manager, Wilbur Smith & Associates, joined us by conference call for this presentation.

Ms. Owens gave a brief summarization of the MTP process to date and informed the Board that more detailed background information was provided in their packets.

At the end of May 2009, the MPO hosted a joint meeting of the Planning and Zoning commissions from both the Cities of Midland and Odessa. This meeting was the first ever meeting of the commissions of both cities. Discussion items included the MPO's preferred future development scenario, mixed-use development, and possible zoning changes that would be required to support the preferred development scenario. It was the hope of the two commissions that a joint meeting becomes an annual event. Similarly, the MPO participated in a meeting of the City Councils of both Cities. Transportation played a prominent role in the meeting. Finally, a meeting of both Chambers of Commerce was held. The themes discussed at this meeting echoed those discussed at the roundtables and included the desire for multi-use trails, the revitalization of the downtowns of the two cities, and intercity transit service.

Subsequent to these meetings, and with the results of the extensive work done by the communities in deciding community values and preferred regional growth and vision as a backdrop, the Project Team started work on coming up with a Project Evaluation Criteria that would be used to assist in the development of a prioritized list of short and long term transportation investments in the 2010-2035 MTP. The Project Evaluation Criteria (which were included in the Board's notebooks) and the point values for each are included in the notebooks for reference.

These criteria were approved by the Technical Advisory Committee and the Policy Board. The Project team members worked with the Cities, Counties and TxDOT to try to reduce a list of over 200 projects in the current MTP, and were able, through this process, to reduce the list to approximately 65 projects. The Project Team has now applied the approved scoring criteria to each of these projects and the projects have been grouped into the top 20%, middle 40%, and bottom 40% for your review today.

The first list of scored projects was presented to the Technical Advisory Committee on Wednesday, August 12, 2009. There was a considerable amount of concern expressed about the projects that had emerged to the top 20%. It was the TAC recommendation that the scores be dropped prior to Policy Board review, but that the lists be grouped with no specific priority by County in each of the categories, and that project costs be totaled for

each County to reflect the equitable distribution of funds to each County. This has been done in the project prioritization packet provided in the notebooks today.

The MPO Staff feel that it is very important for the Policy Board to be certain that the hard work of the communities in establishing vision and priorities for regional growth and transportation investments has been given the appropriate and expected consideration in deciding upon, and applying the project evaluation criteria to these projects. We must be certain that the evaluation process was without bias and that projects ultimately selected for the MTP reflect and support the regional vision and preferred growth scenario decided by the many dedicated participants from our communities in this year long process of extensive public outreach.

We would point out that the recommendation of the Technical Advisory Committee was that the four (4) prioritized Appendix D Projects previously decided on by the Technical Advisory Committee and the Policy Board as projects that would move forward if funds should become available, be listed as the top four (4) projects in the top 20% category of the MTP. The list in your packets does not reflect these projects in the top 20% category.

Mike McAnally informed the Board that the MTP is constrained financially. You can only put projects in the actual MTP body of the document up to the funding that is available. Mr. Freidenfeld interjected that in addition to that you may have an illustrative list of projects outside of the financial constraints. Mr. McAnally agreed but stated that they are not really a part of the MTP as they are unfunded.

Dr. Goates mentioned that he thought that was what the MTP was about and the TIP was the list of the projects that would go forward. Mr. Law informed the Board that under the most current federal rule for the MTP, the MTP is supposed to be developed upon a fiscally constrained list of what you reasonably believe will be your fiscal income will be as well as what environmental flaws are identified that would prevent a project from being on there.

Mr. Freidenfeld went over a few of his power point slides. He stated that it comes down to two points to discuss: 1) funding and 2) priorities. Mr. Freidenfeld also informed the Board that our next Community Workshop is scheduled for the middle of September. This workshop will be about listening to the community about priorities.

The Board decided that they could not vote on this agenda action item as they would need more time to evaluate the list before it could be approved. Kyle Womack, Parkhill Smith & Cooper, suggested having a joint Policy Board/TAC meeting to discuss prioritization of the MTP mobility projects shortly after the workshop is held. Dr. Goates suggested combining the regularly scheduled Policy Board meeting on September 21st. The Board and TAC members in attendance were in agreement.

There was no action taken at this time until reprioritization can be done at the joint Policy Board/TAC Meeting on Monday, September 21, 2009.

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

8a. MPO Staff Members attended the NEPAssist Training at the TxDOT-District office on Friday, August 14, 2009;

MPO Staff Members attended the NEPAssist Training at the TxDOT-District Office on Friday, August 14, 2009. This training was for becoming familiar with this web-based tool that can be used to facilitate the environmental review process by identifying potential issues in the early stages of project development and assists in meeting the requirements of NEPA. MPO staff found this to be a very useful tool that should be very helpful to our planning processes. The staff appreciated the opportunity to participate.

8b. ARRA Project and Reporting Updates;

MPO Staff has all of our highway and transit projects in our TIP STIP documents and ready to go within the stringent ARRA timelines. The staff would like to once again thank all who worked so hard to accomplish this goal.

We are tasked with providing a report every two weeks to the TXDOT and FHWA Division Administrations with respect to the status of Economic Stimulus (ARRA) MPO projects. The MPO project milestone spreadsheet has been prepared and submitted by Matt Carr, TxDOT-Odessa District, for the first reporting period. Critical issues for the MPO projects will be (1) environmental clearance, (2) appearance of the project within an approved STIP, and (3) if applicable, an approved schematic in order for the Federal Highway Administration to provide obligation authority.

8c. Washington Updates;

On July 29, 2009, the House voted 363-68 to approve HR 3356, which will transfer \$7 billion from the General Fund to the Highway Trust Fund. This money is expected to keep the Trust Fund solvent through at least September 30, when the current, six-year surface transportation bill is set to expire.

8d. MPO Executive Director attended a meeting in Austin on August 5th, 2009. MPO Directors, TxDOT District Engineers, and TP&D Directors, and other transportation industry partners met to discuss the planning processes required to develop our TIPs, MTPs, and air quality conformity analyses. Stephanie Fuentes participated in a TIP/STIP Workgroup in Austin on August 6th, 2009. Robert Wall attended a 2-day Transit Workshop in Austin in July, 2009;

8e. TIGER Discretionary Grant Funds/Project Selection Update;

U. S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood issued final rules for the Tiger Grant program on June 17, 2009. This program provides \$1.5 billion of funding nationwide for transportation infrastructure projects to be selected on a competitive basis. Nominations for projects under the Tiger Grant Program must be submitted to the U. S. Department of Transportation by September 15, 2009.

A total of 95 projects were received initially by TxDOT Austin totaling over \$7.7 billion. Ms. Owens was asked to be part of an 8 member panel statewide committee to evaluate all 95 applications. The results of that effort are provided in each member's notebooks. The

Commission met in San Angelo on July 30, 2009, and decided to allow all 95 projects to move forward, along with any other submissions from interested entities, instead of narrowing the list to the top 10 or 20 projects. This will allow the Odessa District project submissions to move forward. All project applications will need to have a letter of support from TxDOT.

8f. Regional Coordination Transportation Plan Proposal Update;

Robert Wall, Transportation Planner, provided an update on our plan proposal now under review by the Public Transportation Division in Austin. Mr. Wall has been in negotiations with Austin for the amount of funding that will be released to our region for the next three (3) years for regional transportation planning/coordination.

9. Project Reports

- TxDOT-Odessa District** – Project updates were in each member’s packet.
- 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.**

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 Robin Donnelly. 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, September 21, 2009, in the MOTOR Conference Room at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted and approved by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melba E. Owens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Melba E. Owens, Executive Director