

**KILLEEN-TEMPLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (KTMPO)
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING POLICY BOARD (TPPB) MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, October 22, 2014

Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG)
2180 North Main Street
Belton, TX

Policy Board Voting Members Present

Chair Danny Dunn—City of Temple	Councilmember Spencer Smith— City of Harker Heights
Councilmember Tim Davis—City of Temple	Commissioner Tim Brown—Bell County
Vice Chair Scott Cospers—City of Killeen	Commissioner Robert Vincent—Lampasas Co.
Mayor Pro Tem Elizabeth Blackstone—City of Killeen	Carole Warlick—Hill Country Transit District (HCTD)
Jose Segarra—City of Killeen	Bobby Littlefield—TxDOT Waco District
Mayor Marion Grayson— City of Belton	
Mayor John Hull—City of Copperas Cove	

Others Present

Sam Listi—City of Belton	Barbara Maley—Federal Highway Administration
Erin Newcomer—City of Belton	Mike Rhodes—TxDOT Waco District
Andrea Gardner—City of Copperas Cove	Tim Juarez—TxDOT TPP
Frank Seffrood—City of Copperas Cove	Kevin Dickey—TxDOT Waco District
David Mitchell—City of Harker Heights	Ralph Gauer—Senator Troy Fraser's Office
Glenn Morrison—City of Killeen	Cheryl Maxwell—KTMPO
George Lueck—City of Killeen	Mark Collier—KTMPO
Keith Gogas—Fort Hood	Jason Deckman—KTMPO
Robert Ator—HCTD	

Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Danny Dunn called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
2. **Opportunity for Public Comment:** No comments were made by the public.
3. **Director's Report:**
 - a. **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)**

Mark Collier updated the board members on the status of the TAP project submissions and reviewed the proposed schedule, noting that the Technical Advisory Committee would be scoring the projects on November 5th, and action for approval by the TPPB was anticipated on November 19th.
 - b. **Air Quality—Ozone Levels**

Jason Deckman provided an update of the September ozone readings for the region from the Killeen and Temple monitoring sites noting that if the three year average (2012, 2013 and 2014) was calculated using the 2014 figures to date, the average would be 72 parts per billion (ppb), which is below the NAAQS (National Ambient Air Quality Standards) for ozone currently set at 75 ppb. He reminded the board members that a reduction in standards from 75 ppb to 60 – 70 ppb was under consideration by the Environmental Protection Agency; proposed standards should be

released in December. Mr. Deckman also noted that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality will be developing an ozone conceptual model for our region that will help to identify emission sources.

4. Action Item: Regarding approval of minutes from September 17, 2014 TPPB meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Elizabeth Blackstone made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice Chair Scott Cosper; the motion passed unanimously.

5. Special Presentation: Transportation Planning and the Environmental Process, Barbara Maley, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Ms. Maley presented an overview of the Environmental Process and where it fits in with project development. She discussed elements of the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act), highlighting the importance of the Purpose and Need Statements. Ms. Maley discussed the importance of Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) early in the planning stages and the associated benefits. Mike Rhodes announced that TxDOT would now be the lead agency for environmental reviews, a role previously held by FHWA.

Ms. Maley and Mr. Rhodes answered questions posed by Bobby Littlefield regarding issues with projects that are not completely funded, but may just have the preliminary engineering phase funded. Ms. Maley emphasized a project cannot receive NEPA approval unless all phases are funded. If a project is delayed moving forward to construction due to lack of funding, environmental reviews may have to be redone when funding is available to ensure the information remains current. She stated that it is of no benefit to start an environmental document unless there is money to take the project to construction.

Mr. Rhodes emphasized the importance of good Purpose and Need Statements with strong justification for the project in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The goal is to get environmental clearance, ROW acquisition, and then letting of the project. If the project is not fully funded for construction, then environmental clearance will not be given. A PEL study or a feasibility study may be an option for long-range projects where funding may be uncertain. Mr. Rhodes explained that a feasibility study is a good way to identify and define the purpose and need of the project, examine traffic needs and future demands, and identify any environmental issues. This report/study can then be used as funding options are explored for the project.

At this point, Chair Dunn took the opportunity to welcome new TPPB member Jose Segarra, City of Killeen Councilmember.

6. Action Item: Regarding approval of proposed amendments to the Public Participation Plan.

Ms. Maxwell identified proposed changes to the KTMPO Public Participation Plan, which included cooperative efforts between KTMPO and Hill Country Transit District regarding public involvement requirements, and changes to the Environmental Justice Communities of Concern (EJCOC). Ms. Maxwell presented maps showing the EJCOC in the current Public Participation Plan in comparison with the proposed EJCOC. She informed the board members that the public involvement process had been completed and no comments were received. Ms. Maxwell noted that the TAC recommended approval of the proposed amendments at their October 8, 2014 meeting; action by the TPPB to approve the amendments was now being requested.

Councilmember Spencer Smith questioned whether the minority and Hispanic percentages were based on federal definitions. Mr. Deckman confirmed that they were.

Vice Chair Cosper made a motion to approve the amendments to the Public Participation Plan, seconded by Mayor Marion Grayson; the motion passed unanimously.

7. **Action Item:** Regarding initiation of public involvement process for proposed amendment to the FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Collier provided a summary of the proposed TIP amendment to add MPO Project W40-01 (SH 317). He informed the board members that TxDOT requested this amendment in the event statewide Proposition 1 passes in the November 2014 election. Mr. Collier presented a tentative schedule and stated the TAC recommended initiation of the public involvement process at their October 8, 2014 meeting; action by the TPPB to approve initiation of the public involvement process was now being requested.

Bobby Littlefield commented on the proposed schedule for the TPPB to approve the TIP amendment at their November meeting. He stated that if Proposition 1 is approved in November, action was still needed by the State legislature and then the Texas Transportation Commission, so the process would involve more time. After discussion, it was determined that the TPPB could proceed as planned; however, the STIP (Statewide Transportation Improvement Program) would not be amended until further in the process when actual funding could be confirmed.

Commissioner Tim Brown made a motion to initiate the public involvement process, seconded by Vice Chair Cosper; the motion passed unanimously.

8. **Staff Update:** Regarding minor budget amendments to the FY2014/2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Mr. Collier provided a summary of the administrative budget amendments noting that minor adjustments were needed to accommodate salary increases from annual performance reviews. He explained there would be no increase to the total budget; the proposed increases would be offset by reductions in Travel and Equipment line items. Much of the funding that had been dedicated to travel was to conduct travel time studies and staff was now able to obtain this data through other resources; therefore, reducing the travel budget would not impact the assigned task.

This item was presented for informational purposes only; no action was needed or taken by the board members.

9. **Roundtable:** Commissioner Brown informed the members of two upcoming issues they may wish to follow. The first involves discussions at the state legislature regarding how funds generated through air quality programs such as the TERP (Texas Emissions Reduction Plan) and the LIRAP (Low Income Vehicle Repair, Retrofit, and Accelerated Vehicle Retirement Program) should be spent. He expressed concern that some of the funds may be used for purposes other than air quality.

The second issue involves a law suit regarding the definition of pollution control devices and the potential impact a decision may have on the tax base.

No other comments were made by the board members.

10. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Mayor Danny Dunn, Chair

J. Page Scott, MPO Director