

**MINUTES**  
**AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Policy Committee for the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization met at 1:30 p.m., April 20, 2017, in Room 306 of City Hall, 509 South East 7th Avenue, Amarillo, Texas.

Voting members present were: Paul Harpole, Jared Miller, Mark Benton, Ernie Houdashell, Kyle Ingham, Dick Davis, Kit Black, Brian Crawford, and H. R. Kelly.

Voting members not present were: Nancy Tanner and Mark Nair.

Staff coordinators were: Gary Holwick and Travis Muno.

**Item 1. Consider approval of the January 19, 2017 meeting minutes.**

Mayor Paul Harpole advised the minutes of the previous meeting on January 19, 2017 were ready for consideration. Mayor Harpole asked if there were any corrections to the minutes; hearing none H. R. Kelly, Potter County Commissioner, made a motion to accept the action as presented. Dick Davis, Chamber of Commerce, seconded the motion. A vote of 9:0 carried the motion.

**Item 2. 2017 Unified Transportation Program update – TxDOT Amarillo District staff.**

Mr. Nix, TxDOT – Amarillo District Planner, gave an overview of the State’s Unified Transportation Program and funding processes associated with this 10-year planning document. He presented information about recent action taken by the Texas Transportation Commission and the impact these actions have on local transportation projects. He told the board that several projects could be let sooner than expected due to additional Category 4-3c and Category 12 funding.

**Item 3. Consider recommendation of MPO Priority Projects.**

Gary Holwick, Amarillo MPO Director, reported that the Committee, along with the Technical Advisory Committee, (TAC) have been working to develop a prioritized list of projects to advance into the 10-year transportation plan. Mr. Holwick and Mr. Nix gave a brief overview of the 16 projects. The committee was interested and supportive of the projects featured. Discussion was held among the MPO Policy Committee and the general consensus of the group was overall support of the priority listing, with the suggestion to continue to review the listing periodically.

Kyle Ingham, Local Government Services Director from PRPC, made a motion for the MPO Policy Committee to accept the list of priority projects shown in Attachment A. Mark Benton, Randall County Commissioner, seconded the motion, and the motion carried 9:0.

**Item 4. Consider 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) revision.**

Mr. Travis Muno, MPO Senior Planner, gave an overview of a revision of the 2015-40 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). He said the changes were needed to add or revise the description or funding of several projects within the document. Mr. Muno addressed projects in the MTP. He said several changes were necessary due to advancement of projects or revision of funding or description of work in others. Overall, these revisions modify project scope, limits, funding amounts, or add projects to the document. The 2015-40 MTP revisions are shown in Attachment B.

Mr. Davis made a motion to accept the action as presented. Jared Miller, City Manager, City of Amarillo, seconded the motion. A vote of 9:0 carried the motion.

**Item 5. Consider 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) revision.**

Mr. Muno explained the need for revising the 2017-20 Transportation Improvement Program. He said several changes were necessary due to advancement of projects, revision of funding or scope of work in others. Overall, the revisions modify project scope of work, project limits, funding amounts, or added projects to the document. The 2017-20 TIP revision is shown in Attachment C.

Judge Ernie Houdashell, Randall County, made a motion to accept the action as presented. Mr. Benton seconded the motion. A vote of 9:0 carried the motion.

**Item 6. Consider recommendation of MPO review and assessment.**

Mr. Holwick, AJ Fawver, AICP, Planning Director, City of Amarillo, and Bill Frawley, AICP, with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, and who is the TxDOT liaison for the Amarillo MPO, advised the Committee about the development of a strategic plan for guiding the MPO. They explained the purpose will be to

review and encourage sound ideals related to: the increased planning responsibilities of the MPO & its member entities; succession planning to benefit future organizational development; the utilization of industry best practices; prepare for the transition to a TMA when the urban area exceeds the 200,000 population threshold. Mr. Frawley outlined a review of the MPO practices and the development of an action plan. Discussion was held among the Committee and the general consensus of the group was overall support.

Mr. Miller made a motion to approve an overall review and assessment of the duties and responsibilities of the MPO, its Policy and Technical Advisory Committees, and its staff as presented. Mr. Benton seconded the motion. A vote of 9:0 carried the motion.

**Item 7. Consider Interstate Highway 27 Expansion Letter of Support.**

Mr. Holwick spoke about efforts to extend Interstate Highway 27 both north of Amarillo and south of Lubbock. One of the benefits of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor is the creation of an international trade route through the West Texas region. He said a number of communities, agencies, and others had offered their support of an expansion of IH-27. Mr. Holwick advised the Amarillo City Council had recently passed a resolution in support of these expansion efforts. Mayor Harpole expressed his support of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor, with the extension of IH-27 both north and south, but also voiced his concerns that the support cannot be at the expense or priority over the Loop 335 project. Much discussion was held among the Committee members and included items such as whether it would be beneficial to secure the western side of Loop 335 to future interstate highway standards, whether the western portion of Loop 335 has or can be designated as the Ports-to-Plains Corridor and thereby elevating the Loop to be shown as a national corridor, and comments were made to hold off on changing the designation of IH-27 until all the upgrades have been completed as the funding mechanism of these projects have the potential to change. But the overall consensus of the Committee was additional discussion time is needed with possible revisions for a letter of support for the Ports-to-Plains Corridor and to clarify Amarillo's priority is Loop 335. Mayor Harpole suggested including our legislative representatives in our next Committee meeting for their input as well.

Judge Houdashell made a motion to table the item until the next meeting and bring the item back as a discussion item. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion, and the motion carried 9:0.

**Item 8. Consider projects for the 2017 Transportation Alternatives Program Call.**

Mr. Holwick spoke about the 2017 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Call. He said it is a federal grant program that has been ongoing for several years and is administered by TxDOT. Mr. Holwick gave the Committee a briefing on the intent and purpose of the TA Set-Aside Program. He stated projects need endorsement by the MPO. Mr. Holwick then asked Kyle Schniederjan, Amarillo City Engineer, to present information about a proposed Complete Streets Initiative project for the 2017 TA Set-Aside Program Call. Mr. Schniederjan presented a complete streets project design for improvements for low to moderate income areas. The project includes connectivity improvements for traffic lanes, bicycle lanes, and on-street parking while establishing a pedestrian safe environment within the current right-of-way. Mr. Schniederjan advised if the Committee is supportive and the City Council approves the 20% match, this item will be placed in the Transportation Improvement Program.

Discussion was held among the MPO Policy Committee and the group was supportive of the project. Mr. Miller made a motion for the MPO Policy Committee to offer a letter of support for the 2017 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program application, Attachment D. Mr. Kelly, seconded the motion, and the motion carried 9:0.

**Item 9. Information regarding an Amarillo City Transit Feasibility Study.**

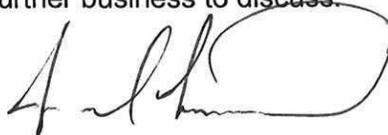
Mr. Muno advised the update for the feasibility study had not been completed at this time, but would be forthcoming in the near future.

**Item 10. Open Forum, time reserved for anyone to speak on any transportation related item; however, no action can be taken on items not on the agenda.**

Mayor Harpole thanked the Policy Committee members for their work on the projects and encouraged members to stay the course.

**Item 11. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned with no further business to discuss.



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Paul Harpole, Chairman  
Amarillo MPO

**Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee Meeting Attendance Record**

Date: April 20, 2017  
Time: 1:30 P.M.

Place: Room 306 City Hall,  
509 SE 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Amarillo, TX  
E-mail Address

Name	Organization Represented	Phone Number	E-mail Address
1 Bill Frawley	TTI	817 462 0533	b-frawley@tti.tamu.edu
2 Sebastian Ysaguirre	POTTER COUNTY R43	806 383 2273	rsy@co.potter.tx.us
3 Gary Holwick	Ama MPO	806 378 6253	gary.holwick@amarillo.gov
4 Travis Muno	Amarillo MPO	806-378-4219	Travis.Muno@amarillo.gov
5 Libby Hoffman	AMARILLO MPO	605-759-4384	ekhoffman1@bauffs.wtamu.edu
6 Ben Womack		352-9266	
7 Paul Hargole	COA	679 0911	
8 Emmi Handau	Randall Co	-	-
9 Mark Reid	S. Shelton Engr.	557 4040	mreid@se-ee.com
10 Chris Mitchell	COA - Public Works	378-6817	chris.mitchell@amarillo.gov
11 Russell Sakm	staff	512-468-5222	russell@911mail
12 Lydine Springer	FIS	842-6105	

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Place: Room 306 City Hall,  
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E-mail Address

Name	Organization Represented	Phone Number	E-mail Address
13 Jotta Hendrickson	McDONALD TRANSIT ASSOCIATES	(854) 405-4200	jhendrickson@MCDONALDTRANSIT.COM
14 Dick Davis	Chamber of Commerce	806-373-8300	ddavis@arr.net
15 Kyle Schniederjan	City of Amarillo C.P.D Engineering	806-2378-9334	
16 Jared Miller	" CMO		jared.miller@amarillo.gov
17 Pamela Ware	Panhandle JLC	806 374 1400	pware@panhandlejlc.org
18 Cheryl Scott	PJLC	"	cscott@panhandlejlc.org
19 DE Rogers	Panhandle JLC	806 374 1400	drogers@panhandlejlc.org
20 Matti Griffin	Rockrose		MATTI@ROCKROSEFAMILYLP.COM
21 Michelle Green	WTAMU Social Work	806-678-5597	mimgreen@cutlark.com
22 Leslie Castorella	WTAMU Social Work	806-223-8675	lmcastorella@gmail.com
23 Beida Ortiz	WTAMU	806-346-2350	Beida.Ortiz2@gmail.com
24 Terry Nix	TxDOT		

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E-mail Address

Name	Organization Represented	Phone Number	E-mail Address
25 Kit Black	TxDOT		Kit.black@txdot.gov
26 Jan Sanders	COA-Planning	378 5269	
27 Jessica Gonzales	WTAMU student	418-1029	
28 MARK BENFON	RANDALL CO	681-8332	mbenefon423@gmail.com
29 Joe Price	PRPC		
30 Lyfe Imler	PRPC		
31 H.R. Kelly	POTTER COUNTY	674/3511	SGT HR KELLY@AD.COM
32 Brian Campbell	TxDOT		bric.campbell@tdot.gov
33 AJ Fawer	COA	378-3020	aj.fawer@amarillo.gov
34 Rob Robbins	RTG, Inc.	972-377-3535	rrobbins@rtg-texas.com
35 BRIAN ENNS	RTG	972 377 3535	benns@rtg-texas.com
36 Raymond Lee Ginger Nelson	COA - Public Works	584-1967	raymond.lee@amarillo.gov ginger@nelsonslaw.com