

**MPO POLICY BOARD MEETING  
LONGVIEW METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
Wednesday, January 10th, 2018  
2:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

With a quorum of the Longview Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board present, the meeting was called to order by Gregg County Judge Bill Stoudt at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 in the Council Chambers located in the Jo Ann Metcalf Municipal Building, 300 W. Cotton Street. In attendance were:

*Harold Wells	Mayor – City of Gladewater
*Michael Shirley	City of Longview
*Rolin McPhee	City of Longview
*Kyle Kutch	Mayor – City of White Oak
*Bill Stoudt	Gregg County Judge
*Glenn Green	TxDOT – Tyler District
*Phillip Mauldin	Harrison County Commissioner
Charlie Smith	City of White Oak
*Keith Bonds	City of Longview
Vernon Webb	TxDOT – Tyler District
Bill Hicks	Half Associates
Bob Gallaher	Longview Bridge & Road
Shana Williamson	Representative Jay Dean
Will Buskell	TxDOT – Longview Area Office
Dale Booth	Bartlett & West
Jeremiah Hunter	Citizen
Karen Owen	Longview MPO
Macie Wyers	Longview MPO

\* denotes Policy Board voting member

Item I. Call meeting to order and welcome

Judge Bill Stoudt called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Item II. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Harold Wells provided the invocation and Judge Stoudt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item III. Citizen comment

There were no citizen comments.

Item IV. Approval of the November 29, 2017 meeting minutes

Karen Owen explained that the minutes were provided in the board member agenda packets sent out prior to the meeting. Ms. Owen asked the board if there were any changes or revisions to the minutes. No comments were made and Judge Stoudt asked the board for a motion to consider approval of the November 29, 2017 Policy Board meeting minutes as presented. Michael Shirley made the motion and it was seconded by Mayor Wells. All were in favor and the motioned carried.

#### Item V. Approval of the revisions to the 2017 – 2020 Transportation Improvement Program

Karen Owen presented two projects for the board's consideration for formal adoption into the short-term transportation plan; the White Oak sidewalk and Guthrie Creek Shared Use Path projects. In May 2017, when the cities of Longview and White Oak submitted applications to TxDOT under the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) project call, this board agreed to add these projects to the TIP, if they were selected to receive funding awards. Late last year, it was announced that both projects were selected. Ms. Owen explained that today is the final step and that both of these projects have support from the local communities in each of their cities.

The City of White Oak applied and received an award of \$712,540 to construct about one mile of sidewalks on the east side of White Oak Rd. between Bermuda Dr. and Center St. The local contribution by the City of White Oak is \$163,884. The project will be funded through TxDOT's Curb, Ramp & Pedestrian Improvement Program in 2018. This important pedestrian and bicycle link will connect White Oak neighborhoods to the schools, while encouraging bicycling and walking.

The City of Longview applied for and received an award of \$3.028 million for two shared use paths. Ms. Owen included a picture in her slide show presentation that provided a good example of what a shared use path looks like. The local contribution is \$3.028 million and this project will complete two gap sections in the Guthrie Creek Trail System. Ms. Owen presented a map of the trail project with the trail sections shown in blue. The paths will be 12 ft. wide and will include five pedestrian bridges over creeks, crosswalks, warning signs at roadway crossings, as well as pedestrian underpasses at Judson and McCann roads. The solid black lines on the presented map showed the existing trails and the dashed line showed the trail that is currently under construction. The blue Guthrie Trails on the map will fill in the gaps and, ultimately, will provide the city with about 10 miles of a continuous trail. The blue segments located on the map are between Eden and Johnson St. and from McCann Rd. to U.S. 80.

This is the second of two public meetings for revising the TIP by adding these two projects into the short-range plan. A public comment period was held between November 29<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup>. No comments were received during the public comment period. Ms. Owen concluded her presentation and opened the meeting to any questions or comments from the public or the Policy Board. There were no questions or comments.

Judge Stoudt asked the board for a motion to consider approval of the TIP revisions as presented. Mayor Wells made the motion and it was seconded by Michael Shirley. All were in favor and the motioned carried.

#### Item VI. Review of revisions to the Public Participation Plan

Ms. Owen began her presentation by explaining that it's the intent of the MPO to provide every opportunity for citizens to be involved in the transportation planning process. Recognizing the importance of public involvement, the MPO outlines procedures in a formal document to ensure that the public is fully informed about transportation projects, that the public has access to transportation plans and projects, and that the public has opportunities to express their opinions and concerns.

Ms. Owen explained that the MPO goes above and beyond regular meeting notifications requirements for cities. In addition to posting public notices, the MPO has a lengthy mailing list of interested parties for public meetings. The transportation network of roadways directly impacts local businesses, school districts, major employers, and its citizens, so the MPO's notification list reflects a wide cross section of members of the public, agencies and businesses. The MPO also uses social media to advertise, as well as the local Longview and Gladewater newspapers and free community newspapers. The Longview MPO has a website available with project plans and programs, as well as the latest news for transportation projects, draft plans and specific project information.

The purpose of making revisions to the Participation Plan on this agenda item is the first step in a two-step

process for revision. The MPO is revising the plan to be in compliance with the FAST Act. Public involvement for all MPOs across the nation will now specifically include notifications to agencies that deal with public ports, which does not apply to Longview, but was mentioned for completeness. It also includes notification to private providers of transportation such as employer-based commuting programs, carpool and vanpool programs, and shuttle programs. Also, during the development of the TIP and MTP, the MPO's short-range plan and long-range plan, the MPO will consult with agencies responsible for tourism and natural disaster risk reduction to keep these agencies informed of the MPO's future transportation projects. The MPO will get in touch with agencies such as the Longview Convention and Visitors Bureau and Gladewater Main Street Program. The majority of the federal regulations target larger cities, but there are certainly applications for the Longview MPO as well. The Longview MPO has revised the Participation Plan for compliance with the new federal regulations. Copies of the plan were available to the board and those in attendance. The draft Participation Plan is available online for viewing and can be mailed upon request. The public is welcome to call the Longview MPO to receive a copy of the draft plan. Ms. Owen included a slide in her presentation that provided the Longview MPO contact information. Ms. Owen announced that anyone watching the meeting who wants to be added to the MPO distribution list for upcoming projects and public meetings can contact the MPO. Those interested can send an email to [MPO@LongviewTexas.gov](mailto:MPO@LongviewTexas.gov) or write to the MPO at the address listed on the slide. The public comment and review period for the Participation Plan runs from January 10<sup>th</sup> through February 24<sup>th</sup>. Federal regulations require a 45-day public comment period. Ms. Owen will be bringing this item to the next board meeting for final approval. Ms. Owen concluded her presentation and opened the meeting to any questions or comments from the public or the Policy Board about the draft Participation Plan. There were no questions or comments.

#### Item VII. Project updates

Vernon Webb introduced himself as the Deputy District Engineer for the TxDOT Tyler District and presented updates on four projects.

The first project is the Harrison Road (FM 2206) project. TxDOT is currently purchasing right of way and developing construction plans for this two phase project. TxDOT has about 50% of the right of way acquired. Phase I, with extents from Fisher Rd. to Loop 281, is about 60% complete with construction plans and TxDOT is initiating construction plans for the second phase, with extents from Fisher Rd. to S.H. 42. The first phase will have a letting date of 2019 and the second phase will follow in 2020.

George Richey Rd. (FM 2275), which is a widening project, is still in the environmental assessment phase. TxDOT is working to finalize this phase and the many components at various stages of approval. TxDOT is expecting to hold a public meeting, which will be the last public involvement effort, this summer. TxDOT does not currently have a date for the public meeting but will be providing a date through the MPO. The project section from Pine Tree Rd. to S.H. 300 has a letting date of 2021 and from White Oak Rd. to Pine Tree Rd. is in 2022.

The S.H. 42 expansion project, with extents from I-20 to Hwy. 80, held the first public meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup> with approximately 50 attendees and three alignment alternatives were presented by TxDOT, which can be found on the project website. Overall, there has been quite a bit of support for the project. This is a big project with a lot of utility work and will be a major undertaking. Mr. Webb stated that the local support expressed to date, is greatly appreciated. TxDOT held an open house format Utilities Coordination meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> due to the vast amount of utility work on this project. TxDOT will take the comments received at the meetings and develop a preferred alternative to present at a second public meeting, hopefully in the summer.

The interchange at S.H. 31 and I-20/U.S. 259 project will look to reconstruct the interchange to eliminate the left exits. TxDOT developed a stakeholders group and held the first meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup> with a good turnout and comments. TxDOT is hoping to hold the first public meeting in the summer or early fall as they take comments from the stakeholders meeting and develop project alternatives.

Mr. Webb concluded his project updates and opened the meeting to any questions or comments from the public or the Policy Board. There were no questions or comments.

Ms. Owen provided an update on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. She began her update by reminding board members that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is currently under development for the Gladewater, White Oak and Longview areas. Currently, the consultant is developing the draft plan. Longview MPO staff is handling the technical review while consulting with the city staff of White Oak, Gladewater, Longview, and TxDOT staff. Next, the draft plan will be presented to the public at a meeting within the next coming months, with the final plan expected to be adopted in May.

Ms. Owen concluded the project updates agenda item and opened the meeting to any questions or comments from the public or the Policy Board. There were no questions or comments.

Item VIII. Staff comment

Mayor Wells thanked TxDOT for the work on the Gladewater project on U.S. 80 from Loop 485 to Lockerplant Rd. Mayor Wells also recognized the City of White Oak for their upcoming sidewalk project on White Oak Rd. Gladewater is starting a project led by Mayor Wells to reclaim sidewalks within the city on U.S. 80 at the Res-Mor Motel where Elvis Presley stayed in 1955. The City of Gladewater has noticed high pedestrian traffic in this area with a destination to the 7-Eleven store. Mayor Wells and other volunteers in Gladewater will be working on the sidewalk reclamation project with no contributions from city funds.

Item IX. Adjournment

Judge Bill Stoudt adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Owen, Director  
Longview Metropolitan Planning Organization

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