

Bryan/College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization

MPO Policy Board Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2018

Certification of Quorum:

Voting members present were Commissioner Nancy Berry, Chair, Brazos County; Councilman Greg Owens, Vice Chair, City of Bryan; and Mr. Lance Simmons, TxDOT Bryan District Engineer. A list of persons who attended is attached.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Commissioner Berry called to order the regular meeting of the MPO Policy Board at 9:08 a.m. on January 10, 2018, at the Brazos County Commissioner's Courtroom, 200 South Texas Avenue, Bryan, TX. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags with an invocation given by Mr. Dan Rudge.

2. Public Comments regarding items not on the Agenda

No public comments were received.

3. Review and approval of December 6, 2017, Policy Board Minutes

Minutes from the December 6, 2017, Policy Committee Meeting were considered for adoption. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Simmons. The motion was seconded by Councilman Owens. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

4. Staff Report

University Drive Study – The consultants presented the University Drive Study to the Technical Advisory Committee in December. After some discussion, the TAC requested additional revisions which will be brought back to the TAC at their January meeting. Specifically, there was concern about treatments shown at the State Highway 6 overpass given that funds have been programmed into the Transportation Improvement Program to make improvements to State Highway 6. Rather than work with what is there, the TAC would like an example of a really good treatment so if given the opportunity it can be incorporated into the State Highway 6 construction project. There was also concern about the segment between State Highway 6 and Boonville Road. The TAC would like to see a proposal of what this could look like in the future instead of working with what is existing.

Equity and Access Co-Captaincy for the Texas Innovation Alliance – After the last Texas Innovation Alliance Summit, because Team Bryan/College Station were one of the few teams that had done anything, Mr. Rudge was asked to be a co-captain of the Equity and Access Team. The Equity and Access Team looks at ways to improve accessibility, reviews paratransit issues, as well as other things. Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Rudge was informed that they would like to name him as a member of the Board of Directors for the Texas Innovation Alliance. Commissioner Berry said she this was a great opportunity and Mr. Simmons congratulated Mr. Rudge for his appointment to the Board.

Regional Human Service Agency Transportation Coordination Workshop – The MPO, in conjunction with the Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living, will host a Regional Human Service Agency Transportation Coordination Workshop on January 19th from 9-11 a.m. Participants were invited from seven counties. Those invited were each given five case studies to review in advance of the workshop of people who were unable to obtain paratransit service. At the workshop, the cases will be reviewed to help determine what are the barriers for each of the agencies to provide those trips. This will give a better understanding of what needs to be done to make coordination something that each agency can actually do. They are trying to figure out if there are internal barriers or if there are external barriers put on by the state and the federal government. If it is the state, Senator Nichols has pledged to work with the Texas Innovation Alliance to try and get those barriers removed at the state level. Any federal barriers will go into the Federal Legislative Action Plan for the Chamber of Commerce. The workshop is at the United Way which is now in the Galleria on Briarcrest Drive.

Regional Travel Demand Model Update – Since the last update on the Travel Demand Model, a lot has been done. Mr. Rudge introduced Mr. Benthul to give an update on the Travel Demand Model. The forecast networks have all been submitted and reviewed by TxDOT in Austin, as well as our own Technical Advisory Committee. The forecast network for 2045 contains most of the projects that appear in our current Metropolitan Transportation Plan as well as some of the Regional Thoroughfare Plan projects, notably the eastern outer loop. Currently, Mr. Benthul is putting the finishing touches on the demographic population employment forecasts. Next week he will be submitting those to the Technical Advisory Committee to review for their specific agencies. Once that is done, it will be submitted to TxDOT in Austin. Mr. Benthul is estimating that it will be July before we receive it back from TxDOT in Austin.

5. Revisions to the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

The City of Bryan submitted projects for the Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TASA) projects and were awarded two of the projects that they submitted. As a result, the MPO is required to amend both the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program. On the table that is being shown, if you look at FY 2020 under Category Nine funds, the funds being received as part of the TASA grant are shown there so

\$1.97 million was added to the table. Another change is on Table 6.1 which is the Fiscally Constrained Project List where we show the two projects being added in 2020. Project 337 and project 338 were added to Table 6.1 for Coulter Drive and SH 6 northbound frontage road as part of the amendment to the MTP. A description table was also added to the Project Summaries for each project. Mr. Rudge thanked the City of Bryan for their work and for their ability to obtain the TASA grant funds. Commissioner Berry commented that both projects needed to be done and was glad the city applied for the funds and is receiving them. Commissioner Berry made the motion to approve the changes to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan as outlined. Councilmember Owens seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

6. Revisions to the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The Transportation Improvement Program also needs to be amended to show that we have those two projects programmed in 2020. Mr. Rudge originally tried to create a bicycle and pedestrian projects section in the plan; however, TxDOT has an electronic submission system and there are only three fields to choose from which are highway projects, transit projects, and grouped projects. Since he was unable to create a bicycle and pedestrian category and projects such as these cannot be listed under grouped projects, it has been listed under the highway project section of the Transportation Improvement Program. Councilmember Owens made the motion to approve the addition of the two City of Bryan TASA funded projects to the Transportation Improvement Program as outlined. Mr. Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

7. Memorandum of Understanding Between the MPO, TxDOT and BTD

Under the FAST Act legislation, there is a requirement that the MPO's, the state Departments of Transportation, and all local general purpose public transportation providers have to enter into a memorandum of understanding spelling out exactly what their roles and responsibilities are in the metropolitan planning process. The memorandum being reviewed is taken from language that was provided by the Federal Highway Administration as to how it should look. Mr. Rudge worked directly with Brazos Transit District and the TxDOT Planning & Programming Division in Austin and everyone is in agreement that this is exactly how the memorandum of understanding should look with one exception. Section nine says if there is ever any action taken where one party sues the other for breach, the venue for the trial or the action will be Brazos County. Under state law, if TxDOT ever does become a party to an action, it is required that the venue be Travis County. With the change from Brazos County to Travis County, everything else in the memorandum of understanding remains the same. Mr. Rudge contacted Brazos Transit District and they are fine with the change to Travis County as well. Commissioner Berry made the motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the MPO, TxDOT, and BTD with change in Section Nine to Travis County instead of Brazos County. Councilmember Owens seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

8. Brazos County Mobility Issues and Local Responses

In anticipation of a Texas Transportation Commissioner visit, Dr. Lomax was asked to put together some of the mobility issues and local responses to show that our region is not just asking for money, but we are doing a lot of things on our own to try and address all of the transportation issues that we face here in Brazos County. In this document, it shows how much the local governments are spending of their own funds, some of the issues associated with our growth, and the responses from the localities and from Texas A&M were included. In addition to that, Mr. Rudge was asked to put together some projected growth estimates for our metropolitan area which included population projections, household projections, and vehicle registration growth to show that our region is actually growing much faster than many people assume. Our region has gone from being a small city to a small urban center moving very quickly towards a larger urban, but not mega-region thankfully. There is no action that is necessary for this; however, because this is information that will eventually come to the public, Mr. Rudge wanted the board members to be the first ones to see it.

9. Interstate 14 in Brazos County Resolution

The Technical Advisory Committee looked at several different alignments for I-14 and talked about the issues of each one of the alignments. It was finally decided that the best solution would be to prepare a resolution stating the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative that the TAC supports is going on the outer loop in our Major Thoroughfare Concept just north of OSR all the way around to south of College Station and intersecting with SH 30. The resolution also states that even though it's our preferred alternative, there are federal and state environmental, cultural, historical, archeological, and other analyses that need to take place before the final alignment can be set. Commissioner Berry made the motion to approve Resolution 2018-06 adopting a preferred alignment for Interstate 14 through Brazos County. Councilmember Owens seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Berry asked if there were any meetings of interest besides the one with the non-profit agencies on paratransit? The next meeting of the Texas Innovation Alliance will be February 12-13 in Austin. There will be a Chamber Transportation Committee meeting at the end of January. The next meeting of the TAC is next Thursday, January 18th. The next meeting of the Policy Board is February 7th at 8:30 a.m.

10. Adjourn

The Policy Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Meeting: Policy Board

Date: 1/10/2018

Name	Agency
Dennis Christensen	ITC Director Eric Lee
Nancy Berry	Brazos County
CLARA SCHUBERT	TXDOT
JASON SCHUBERT	CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Doug Brannan	JONES / CARTER
Pat Krzyzaniak	City of Bryan
Prarthana Banerji	Brazos County

Nancy F. Berry

MPO Policy Board Chair or Vice-Chair
Bryan-College Station
Metropolitan Planning Organization

ATTEST:

Dan Rudge

Dan Rudge - BCSMPO

2-7-18

Date