

Bryan/College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization MPO Policy Board Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2023

Certification of Quorum

The following voting members were present: Nancy Berry, Chair, Brazos County; John Nichols, Vice Chair, City of College Station; James Edge, Member, City of Bryan; Peter Lange, Member, Texas A&M University; and Chad Bohne, Member, TxDOT Bryan District. MPO staff present were Dan Rudge, Bart Benthul, and Lisa Lyon. The sign-in sheet for the meeting is attached listing other attendees.

Welcome and Open Meeting

Nancy Berry, Board Chair, called to order the Policy Board meeting at 9:30 a.m. on October 11, 2023, at the Brazos County Commissioner's Courtroom, 200 South Texas Avenue, Bryan, TX. The meeting opened with an invocation by Dan Rudge and pledges to the U.S. and Texas flags.

Public Comments Regarding Items not on the Agenda

Mr. John Craig Hall of Bryan, Texas, spoke to the Policy Board regarding Highway 30 (Harvey Road) and how it should be improved.

Approval of Minutes from the September 6, 2023, Policy Board Meeting

The minutes of the September 6, 2023, Policy Board meeting were reviewed. **John Nichols made the motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by James Edge. The minutes were adopted by a unanimous vote.**

MPO Staff Report by Dan Rudge

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant Program – Kimley-Horn was chosen as the consultant for the work and negotiations are in process to finalize the contract. There were a couple of questions regarding contract language but not in the scope of work or the funding. Those details were worked out yesterday with the Purchasing Department and it is hoped that the contract will be finalized by the end of the week. The City of Bryan and the City of College

Station have provided Mr. Rudge with lists of their Planning Steering Committee representatives.

Transportation Management Area Certification Review – The Certification Review takes place on November 15 and 16. MPO staff, Brazos Transit District and a representative from the TxDOT Bryan District have been asked to attend. There will be a roundtable discussion for TAC members and other planning partners in the late afternoon on the 15th and thirty minute maximum one-on-one interviews with the three elected officials on the Policy Board in the early afternoon on the 16th. Time slots are available at 1:00, 1:30, and 2:00. Please let Mr. Rudge know if you have a preferred time, otherwise he will reach out the week before to determine your preferences.

Texas Triangle Freight Planning Collaboration – Mr. Rudge has had discussions with the 36 A Coalition about revising the paper MPO staff prepared a few years ago and taking it to the Texas Transportation Commission. It has been vetted with TxDOT in Austin and there is excitement about the process of it moving forward. Michael Parks, Director of the Brazos Valley Council of Governments, and Mr. Rudge have been requested to do a presentation to the 36A Coalition in November. The roadway was originally called 36A Parkway but has been changed to the Texas Triangle Parkway.

Transit White Paper – Members of the board were emailed a copy of the Transit White Paper which is basically what the TAC has recommended to the Policy Board. There is one yellow highlighted portion where there was not unanimous agreement. Mr. Rudge wanted to give this opportunity to ask questions and to provide feedback to himself and the Technical Advisory Committee.

Brazos Transit District (BTD) supports an advisory committee; however, they do not support adding additional members to the board or having a separate board for the urbanized area. Currently there is a member from both Bryan and Brazos County on their board which is a bigger percentage of representation than any other region Brazos Transit District serves. BTD and their board feels as if the urbanized area is already well-represented and the advisory committee is the best route to go and would make the most impact. The current Bryan representative, Marvin Tate, was appointed to the board when he was mayor of Bryan, so has been on the board for many years. His position will soon be up for replacement and will be filled an elected representative or their designee from College Station. The rotation between the two cities is not something that is currently specified in BTD's bylaws.

After a lengthy discussion regarding this issue, some ideas from the board were as follows:

- Add an additional position to the BTD Board so both cities and the county are represented.
- Position rotation between Bryan and College Station or Bryan, College Station, and the county that is codified in BTD's bylaws.
- The position(s) are required to be elected official(s) or their designee.

- Term limits defined in BTD’s bylaws.
- Addition of an advisory committee with their access to the board clearly specified.
- Having Brazos County accept full financial responsibility.

The way that the federal law is written, the Policy Board can name a designated recipient, but it has to be in collaboration and coordination with the existing transit provider. If BTD does not agree with the board’s designated recipient, then it will not be approved by the Federal Transit Administration. It is imperative to work collectively on whatever it is we want to move forward with.

Since Mr. McBeth and Ms. Weedon of BTD were not available to attend this meeting, it was decided that a workshop to include them would be the appropriate solution. Mr. Rudge will poll the board to get the workshop scheduled as soon as possible.

Public Participation Procedures

Mr. Rudge shared some text that was provided to him by the City of College Station. At the back of the Public Participation Procedures (PPP), there is a list of what each of the local jurisdictions do in terms of public involvement for transportation projects. The City of College Station’s section was taken from their website; however, they do more than what is listed. Mr. Rudge provided the board with up updated PPP copy that includes text that the City of College Station would like included. The revised language is listed on pages 23 and 24 and covers how the City of College Station does a Capital Improvement Plan and how the public can be involved. The public can also address the city council at their public meetings as well as the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Bicycle/Pedestrian and Greenways Advisory Board.

A second revision was made on page 5 under the “BCS MPO Policy Committee includes”. Brazos Transit District was added to the list to reflect changes to the MPO’s bylaws.

Peter Lange made the motion to adopt the revised Public Participation Procedures with the amendments discussed. The motion was seconded by James Edge. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

MPO Bylaws Amendment

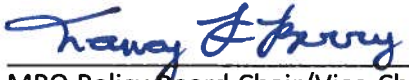
The bylaws amendment is primarily focused on adding Brazos Transit District to the MPO Policy Board. Also, because the MPO became a Transportation Management Area, one of our required documents is the Congestion Management Process so it was added where appropriate. Some of the voting requirements were also updated as well since we were making the modification to the bylaws to include that. Some of the voting requirements, for example on page 19 (changed from four fifths to five sixths), were updated to reflect the new board composition. On page 17, an (A) was added for clarification under the “Standards of Conduct” section.

John Nichols made the motion to adopt the MPO Bylaws as revised. The motion was seconded by Nancy Berry. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

ATTEST:



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



Dan Rudge - BCSMPO

11/13/2023

Date