MINUTES

LAWTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
May 7, 2024

Minutes of the Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board meeting held May 7, 2024, in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 212 SW 9th Street, Lawton, Oklahoma.

The agenda for the meeting was posted on the bulletin board in City Hall in compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by Chairman Stan Booker.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Stan Booker, City of Lawton Mayor David Denham, City Planning Commission, Chairman Jay Earp, ODOT Division VII Engineer George Gill, City of Lawton, Council Allan Hampton, City of Lawton Transit Trust Kelly Harris, City of Lawton, Council Devon Westbrook, ODOT, MPO Coordinator Johnny Owens, Comanche County Commissioner, Central District David Madigan ,Lawton-Ft. Sill Regional Airport Authority
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Isaac Akem, FHWA * Oklahoma State Senator * Oklahoma House of Representative Member * Gail Lyssy, Federal Transit Administration Region VI * Fort Sill Commanding General *
ALSO PRESENT:	Christina Ryans-Huffer, Recording Secretary Christine James, Director of Planning Jonathan Stone, Transportation Planner Candace Smith, Transportation Planner Susan Schlecht, Accountant City of Lawton Finance Department Joe Painter, City of Lawton Engineer Bryce Lawson, ODOT Division VII Laura Chaney, ODOT Multimodal and Planning Division * Sarah McElroy, ODOT Multimodal and Planning Division Mike Woodhams, ODOT Transit Programs Division Julie Sanders, SWODA Debbie Dollarhite, LMPO Administrative Consultant

*Nonvoting Member

2. Verify posting of meeting.

The meeting was posted on April 30, 2024 at 1:39 pm by Kobe Humble.

3. Introductions.

All attendees gave introductions.

4. Approval of minutes of the December 5, 2023, February 6, 2024, March 5, 2024, and April 2, 2024, meetings

Motion by Owens. **Second** by Harris. to approve the minutes as written of December 5, 2023, February 6, 2024, March 5, 2024, April 2, 2024 meetings **Aye:** Denham, Earp, Gill, Hampton, Harris, Westbrook, Owens, Madigan, Booker **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed. 9-0**

NEW BUSINESS

5. Consider amending the annual meeting schedule to move Transportation Policy Board meetings to the third Tuesday of the month.

James stated there's been some discussion previously about not having Policy and Tech right back-to-back because Tech makes recommendations to Policy and there needs to be more time between the meetings to make amendments and changes. Staff recommends leaving Tech at that first meeting move Policy to the third Tuesday of the month.

Denham asked if there are Members that are on both committees.

James responded there are some from ODOT, and they are also recommending that the meetings be separated.

Earp stated he would continue to attend Policy Board meetings and have Bryce Lawson, his alternate, attend Technical Committee meetings.

Motion by Denham. **Second** by Owens. to approve amending the annual meeting schedule to move Transportation Policy Board meetings to the third Tuesday of the month **Aye:** Earp, Gill, Hampton, Harris, Westbrook, Owens, Madigan, Booker, Denham **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed. 9-0**

6. **Approve change to the bylaws of the LMPO Policy Board moving the regular meeting date from the first to the third Tuesday of each month and authorize the Chairman to sign.**

James stated this is just a companion item to the one before, and this is actually amending the By-Laws to match what was just voted on.

Motion by Harris. **Second** by Hampton. to approve a change to the bylaws of the LMPO Policy Board moving the regular meeting date from the first to the third Tuesday of each month and authorize the Chairman to sign **Aye:** Gill, Hampton, Harris, Westbrook, Owens, Madigan, Booker, Denham, Earp **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed. 9-0**

7. **Consider approving the Memorandum of Understanding between the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, the City of Lawton Transit Trust, and the Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization for Transit Performance Measures.**

Stone stated this item outlines the responsibilities for each party regarding the transit performance measures. The MPO will be responsible for coordinating with LATS and reporting on the performance measures.

Westbrook stated it doesn't outline specific measures in the agreement. It just states that there will be a cooperative process where these things are discussed and there is a reporting structure to go to ODOT and MPO for performance

Booker asked if this is a new requirement.

Chaney stated it was a requirement in the FAST Act that we had previous to our current transportation bill. I think it was just something that we overlooked and didn't get done at the time, and so we're trying to catch up.

Gill asked if the LMPO was doing it.

Westbrook stated yes, there is target setting in TAM plan and the transit plan does address fatalities, state of performance, things like that. This is formalizing them.

Motion by Madigan. **Second** by Earp, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, the City of Lawton Transit Trust, and the Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization for Transit Performance Measures. **Aye:** Hampton, Harris, Westbrook, Owens, Madigan, Booker, Denham, Earp, Gill. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed. 11-0**

8. Receive Kimley-Horn's update on the status of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and results of public involvement efforts to date and provide feedback.

Stone stated in the packet there's a report provided by Kimley-Horn outlining the progress on each step of the MTP, outlining public involvements, and the results from the survey. There were 358 responses to our survey. And there will be further opportunities for public involvement over this process.

Booker asked did we set some goals on this.

Stone responded there was a goal of 500 but did not recall if that was for just this one survey or for the entire public involvement process.

Hampton asked if the respondents were all citizens of Lawton.

Stone responded 82% live in Lawton.

Hampton asked if it was a random poll of people.

Stone responded we attempted to get as many responses as possible by putting this out on social media, on posters in City Hall and I believe the transit buses had information on.

Harris asked the 11.6% and 27.2% who said they'd rather be biking or walking, what are they waiting on.

Stone responded that is something that is going to be addressed. Because if they want to bike and walk and they are not, then there's something that is preventing them from biking and walking. It could an infrastructure issue, or it could be perceived safety.

Harris asked if there was only one bike path across town.

Stone responded there are two that go roughly from either 38th to Sheridan to roughly Railroad Street and they're about a mile apart.

Harris asked if there are dedicated lanes.

Stone stated they are shared use through the neighborhoods and there's a dedicated lane on Sheridan Road for a few feet. There are some off street portions where it cuts through a park.

Madigan stated I thought the last slide showing how the funding should be divided was interesting. How does this align with how we spend money in these different categories?

Gill stated I think the road project is probably pretty close.

Madigan stated they would put a vast majority of their $100 into repairing of existing roads. Thanks to the City and leadership on repairing existing roads that aligns with what the respondents would do with the funds.

Booker stated we typically wouldn't mix sidewalk and road funds but we are we are putting a lot of money in overall.

Madigan stated a lot of times we get these reports and we look at them and then we shelve them. But I think this is an opportunity for our city to say we listen to the citizens.

9. Consider receiving a presentation on grant opportunities, highlighting potential avenues for securing additional funding.

Smith stated the presentation will cover the active transportation and infrastructure investment program. This grant can be utilized to improve the safety, efficiency and reliability of Lawton's transportation network. It will also help reconnect communities and enhance public transportation. The grant will allow communities to identify, prioritize, and implement improvements to the largest barriers to safe, accessible, and equitable pedestrian and bicycle network connectivity through the development of infrastructure that will provide substantial additional opportunities for walking and bicycling. Those eligible for the funding are political organizations such as local, regional, and municipal government organizations as well as planning organizations. The available funding for this program is $44 billion. The Planning and Design grants are $2 million recommended maximum and $100,000 minimum. The Construction grants are $15 million recommended maximum for qualified low-income communities: otherwise, $12 million recommended maximum and $7.5 million recommended minimum. The local match for the funding is 20 percent.

Booker asked if it could include sidewalks?

Smith responded yes; it includes bike trails as well. It includes anything as far as transportation: walking, bicycling, and roadways.

Harris stated this might be used for the sidewalk we want to construct on Gore Boulevard between the hotels and 2nd Street. That is a low-income area.

James stated because there are some major deadlines we need to meet with ODOT, applying for additional grant opportunities isn't on the top of the priority list right now. However, we can be prepared to apply in future years.

10. Reports or Comments.

a. Federal Highways No Report.

b. ODOT: Earp stated I want to introduce Bryce Lawson. He's our resident engineer for Duncan area, which Comanche County is in our Duncan area. I-44 north of Lee and the Carter Street area is probably less than 30 days from finishing. The Gore pedestrian bridge over I-44 should start in July. The Rogers Lane Safety Improvement Project should start around Labor Day, which will prohibit anyone facing north to turn west except at a traffic signal.

c. Fort Sill: None.

d. Lawton Fort Sill Regional Airport: Madigan stated Phase 1 of the terminal project is about complete. We are working with the Mayor to coordinate a Ribbon Cutting Event towards the end of May. We are finalizing the budget for the Airport to submit to the City as well.

e. LMPO Director: None.

f. LMPO Finances: Schlecht stated beginning balance was $188,082.91 minus outstanding checks $65,687.00; adjusted Cash Balance $122,215.91; Encumbered Funds $110,468.00. Total cash available $11,737.91.

g. City of Lawton Engineering: None.

11. Comments from the public.

None.

12. Adjournment.

Motion by Owens. **Second** by Hampton to adjourn the meeting **Aye:** Harris, Westbrook, Owens, Madigan, Booker, Denham, Earp, Gill, Hampton **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed. 11-0**

With no further business meeting was adjourned at 11:41am.

Stanley Booker, Chairman