

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION TECHINCAL COMMITTEE
THIRD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
February 7, 2023

Minutes of the LMPO Transportation Policy Board meeting held February 7, 2023, in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, 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 10:10 a.m. by Charlotte Brown

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charlotte Brown
 Jay Earp
 Larry Wolcott
 Krista Ratliff
 Debra Porter
 Sarah McElroy
 Ryan Landers

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Ziegler
 Joseph Painter
 Barbara McNally
 Denotria Davis

ALSO PRESENT: Madison Aust, Recording Secretary
 Jonathon Stone, Transportation Planner
 JLyn Jorgenson, City Attorney

1. Call meeting to order and establish quorum

7 (seven) of the 11 (eleven) members were present

2. Verify posting of meet

Meeting was posted on February 1, 2023 at 9:30 am by Tammy Branstetter

3. Introductions

Business

4. Consider recommending to the Transportation Policy Board approval of a resolution adopting Amendment 2 to the Federal Fiscal Years 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 Transportation Improvement Program for the Lawton Metropolitan Area Transportation Study area.

Stone stated ODOT has asked that we include this is our TIP, it is in the state's TIP. Do you want to speak on this?

McElroy responded sure yes. We are adding an additional line item to the STIP for the NEVI Plan and projects that are associated with it. NEVI is the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure plan. ODOT completed this plan and then received 66 (sixty-six) million in federal dollars to put in EV charging stations throughout the state. So, this line item is for those individual projects. Once we get various private entities or local entities onboard to put in these charging stations. These projects require 20 (twenty) percent match from state or local funds or private funds. This is to add that line item to the STIP so we can start installing those stations.

Brown asked any questions? Do I have a motion?

Motion made by McElroy Second by Landers: to recommend the adoption Amendment 2 to the Federal Fiscal years 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 Transportation Improvement Program for the Lawton Metropolitan Area Transportation Study area. Aye: Earp, Landers, McElroy Porter, Wolcott, Brown, Ratliff Nay: None **MOTION PASSED**

5. Consider recommending to the LMPO Transportation Policy Board approval of the Request for Proposals for the audit of the Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization for fiscal years ending June 30th 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Brown stated we did make a few changes based on Finance's recommendations on some of the language, it was outdated. Other than that, it is the same language as we have done in the past. Any discussion?

Motion made by Landers Second by Wolcott: to recommend approving the Request for Proposals for the audit of the Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization for fiscal years ending June 30th 2023, 2024, and 2025. Aye: Brown, Wolcott, Ratliff, Porter, McElroy, Landers, Earp Nay: None **Motion Passed**

6. Consider recommending to the Transportation Policy Board possible locations for future Traffic Flow Improvement Studies for arterial roadways in the MPO study area.

Stone stated currently we are working with Legal to finalize the contract with EST for the section of Gore Boulevard between 7th (seventh) Street and Lawrie Tatum. That will use a majority of our funds for this year, FY 23 (twenty-three). For FY 24 (twenty-four) we will be spending some of those funds on projects this study will identify but we will possibly have funds available for another study. And we are looking for recommendations to do that.

Landers asked you said from 7th (seventh) to where?

Stone responded from 7th (seventh) to Lawrie Tatum.

Brown stated I think there has been discussion around the hospital on Gore, Comanche County Memorial Hospital.

Stone responded yes; I think that was the Policy Board at the last meeting. That whole mile section

Brown stated from Sheridan to 38th (thirty-eighth).

Stone responded I think that has been the only one brought up recently.

Brown stated there are plans from what I've heard because some of the houses by the hospital are starting to come down, so there are plans to redo 27th (twenty-seventh) and 31st (thirty-first) that realignment there we'll be moving forward before to much longer to.

Landers asked, that is the one right at Cameron and the hospital?

Brown responded no it's the one east. The Ez Go to the east of that.

Landers stated ok, gotcha. I can't really think of anything drastic.

Wolcott responded, the two sections I had in mind were Gore was one of them, Sheridan to 38th and the other was Sheridan road from Gore to Cache maybe the most congested area in town.

Stone stated since those intersections would that count as a continuous stretch, Sarah that we could study. Since it's a mile to the east and a mile to the west?

McElroy responded with so you're talking about 24 funds?

Stone stated with the 24 funds, just similar to what we are doing with the Gore Boulevard.

McElroy responded really so it needs to be the area then needs to have a CMAQ project attached to it.

Stone stated there will be a project attached to it, the Gore project. Once we know what they are looking at. The same would happen with this one as well.

McElroy responded yes.

Stone stated and since its studying a defined location we could extend that because the roads are connected. It would be 38th to Sheridan and Sheridan north to Cache Road.

McElroy responded when you say extend, do you mean extend the current agreement?

Brown and Stone stated no

Brown continued it would be a new agreement.

McElroy stated ok, it all just needs to be separate. As far as agreements and coming to the board and being with the UPWP

Stone stated we have to go out for RFP done. We just want to get started on that, a selection of a site.

McElroy responded that will have to go back out for bid for that specific piece.

Stone asked, so there is no problem for those 2 miles, since they are connected?

McElroy responded not that I see, no.

Stone stated I don't know how much it would cost to do 2 miles as opposed to one, but we can look at it.

Brown responded I think that will be more in-depth then what we are doing on Gore.

Stone stated its shorter by less than a mile.

Brown responded it is.

Motion made by Landers, **Second** by Ratliff, to recommend approving 38th to Sheridan and Sheridan north to Cache Road as a traffic study site. Aye: Landers, McElroy, Porter, Ratliff, Wolcott, Brown, Earp Nay: None **Motion Passed**

7. Consider recommending to the Transportation Policy Board a firm for the redesign and hosting of the LMPO website.

Stone stated our current website is 16 or 17 years old, and it is built on architecture that is about to be outdated. We were approached by Back 40 Designs saying it is no longer supported as of March, so we are looking at several quotes. I have them all organized on the table, what it would cost to rebuild the website and how much it would cost to annually to host the site. Staff's recommendation is the top one from Back40.

Brown stated, Back40 currently has our website. It would just be them rebuilding the system with new software.

Stone added, this option is the cheapest after 6 years., considering our last website lasted for 16 years. I think a long more term look at it.

Ratliff asked is there a summary sheet in here.

Stone responded, there should be one after the next page.

Ratliff stated, that is exactly what I'm looking for. Where is Back40 housed at?

Stone responded, Oklahoma City. Edmond?

Brown responded, Edmond.

Stone stated, we asked each of these firms for basically the same thing. We got wildly different costs for the rebuild and the monthly cost. That's why this has to be done this way in this table. It's a vast difference over 7 years. (what is being said) Some of them gave us options that were much less service than what we originally had. Didn't include enough pages or didn't have the file storage we needed.

Ratliff responded so there is no real apples to apples, like a an example, a response to an RFP, we want x and they all provide quotes for that.

Stone stated yes, the ones that are listed are the most comparable to what we have. Are the first one, fourth one, and the last one are almost identical. The middle one is close, but it actually includes additional cost for troubleshooting.

Brown asked any other questions?

Motion made by Landers, Second by McElroy: to recommend Back40 Designs to LMPO for the redesign and hosting of the LMPO website. Aye: McElroy, Porter, Ratliff, Wolcott, Brown, Earp, Landers. Nay: None **Motion Passed**

8. Reports or Comments

Brown asked any reports or comments. Krista, do you want to go first, since I made you rush over here?

Ratliff responded, sure, I didn't have a report prepared, because I wasn't planning on attending the meeting. So happy to see all of you guys. We've got a lot of exciting things coming up but nothing that includes traffic or transportation.

Brown stated, Jay?

Earp responded, I brought some eight-year work plan maps and asset preservation maps if you all want one. They are on our website, there is a QR code that you can click on or highlight on your camera and click kind of show all of the projects in our eight-year work plan. Of note in the Lawton City limits area we have in 2025 one of the bridges on Lee on Highway 7 over east Cache Creek will be the west bound bridge replacements so we will put all traffic on the east bound side. And we will replace that bridge in 2025. Roger's Lane Safety Improvement project is still coming. We have it in 2026 but plan development is coming fast, we have to do a public information roll out kind of educate the public on what we are trying to do, try to get that let. I don't know if we can get in 2024 but we will try. We are going to be overlaying the highway between Lawton and Cache. There are a few more objects of note if you all want to map them I can give you one of those reports I have. One of them is the eight-year plan and one is the asset preservation. Asset preservation is like sidewalks minor bridge repairs, or some asphalt.

Brown asked, where are we at on the pedestrian bridge?

Earp responded, that is a TAP project so it's not my funds. So I don't know. It would be a Painter question.

Brown stated, I will ask him about that.

Earp stated, I know that was a grant that you all applied for and got a grant for,

Brown responded, I know. I think I remember being told ODOT was doing the plans.

Earp stated you all hired CEC to do the plans.

Brown responded, CEC is doing the plans. Okay I will check with Painter on that.

Brown asked, Porter do you have anything?

Porter responded, Sheridan Gate opened yesterday after many delays.

Ratliff asked, what are the hours going to be?

Porter responded, back to the normal hours. The next gate to close will be the one the other side of Sheridan on 44, we call it the Sill Gate. That's going to be closed next in March, I am waiting on a date on when they are going to close that one. Hopefully it goes faster than Sheridan.

Brown asked, Ryan?

Landers responded, I guess we have a committee meeting next Monday, I don't even know where we are at in stages on finding a location for the transfer station at this point. Think we are going to give them 10 locations

Brown stated, we actually have 17 sites that they asked us to look at.

Landers responded, its every site at this point. If you have any recommendations.

McElroy stated, everyone has a thought.

Wolcott stated the old Dillard's building.

Ratliff responded, well that might pose a problem for me.

Landers stated, we do have a survey out to the public whether they want it downtown or if they want it outside. It's all over the place really, if I'm going to be honest with you. I think the consensus is everyone wants the transfer center and then we would also do the maintenance and administration facility too, I think it all kind of tries in there also. Then we can finish our master plan, zero admission study, and then start preliminary design to hopefully start going after some grants. So fingers crossed. Other than that, then that's about it.

Brown asked, Sarah?

McElroy responded, we just kicked off, there is a new pot of money available from the feds for carbon reduction and that is based off of population. So there will be portion of the funding coming to the Lawton area. The criteria for that is pretty close to CMAQ there's some additional restrictions. Basically, you just have to show the project will have to reduce carbon. There's a couple of tools on FHWA's website where you can put in some information and basically get an anticipated amount of how much carbon will be reduced. That will justify the project.

Brown asked, so we could use that as a part of our zero-emission bus stuff.

McElroy responded, yes.

Landers asked, is it an annual thing or a onetime thing or?

McElroy responded; it is over the next 5 years.

Landers stated, if you could send us the information on that.

McElroy responded, yes and mine. We had our quarterly MPO meeting yesterday, and I mentioned we have the numbers, but our program's division will be sending out an obligation limitation letter with the funds that are available right now and I believe there is 22 through 27 funding, but we at the state are in the middle of putting together a strategy of, it's basically a planning document on we are incorporating carbon reduction into the projects that we do. So, I will keep you guys posted on that.

Brown asked, can you send us the email that Isaac shared yesterday with the

McElroy stated the census information.

Brown responded yes.

McElroy responded yes.

Landers asked how much did we go down in the census.? Is it a lot? Or a little?

Brown responded; I don't even remember what the numbers were. Do you?

Stone stated I don't.

Landers stated I think we were at 91 or 92 but I heard it was down to 90 something.

Brown responded, yes, I think that is what I heard too. Larry, do you have anything?

Wolcott responded, I don't have anything.

Brown stated the only thing I have is if you contact our office be patient, I am down a staff member who had a baby yesterday. You want to talk about the downtown revitalization?

Ratliff responded yes, so what prior was known as downtown revitalization is now community revitalization it's under the chamber's umbrella. As of six months ago we've had five to six meetings, we have retained an architectural engineering firm out of Oklahoma City that did FISTA and the prior Downtown Revitalization over on 2nd Street. We have come up with a conceptual plan for our community that includes multiple districts in multiple areas. And we are explaining that in stake holder meetings that we have six meetings over the next two weeks we will expand our sphere of influence, if you will, to hear feedback from different groups and different populations sectors so we can kind of get their ideas the crux of it is the very first phase of it is the west side of second street. Some key take aways are that they are interested in putting C Street on a road diet. Putting a center median in with trees and making it pretty and building some commercial in wall parking or plaza parking, and potentially some one-way streets. I have kind of pushed back gently and asked if that can be a part of their phase 3 or 4, so it's three or four years down the road. So, we have some time to review it before that point. Some exciting stuff happening with our Community Revitalization, it also includes Ferris as an arts district, Westside district, Patriot Plaza, Fort Sill Boulevard, potentially working with the City to create some districts or zones for not TIF but tax incentives for improvement of façades and landscaping done that the

owner's expense but get a tax break back over the next five to ten years. To create a very attractive traffic flow route through the city. The Mayor and I had a meeting with the CEOs of all the major organizations in the community to hear what was important to them. We now have papers all over our board room now and that was what number one is. There is no major route of recruitment that we can bring people to town or visitors come to town that looks good. So he wants to start working on that, so that is our task list.

Brown stated anyone else. For those of you know that don't know, this is Mady our admin in Planning, so she will be the one you will be getting emails and stuff from, or phone calls. Anything else? We will entertain a motion for adjournment.

Wolcott stated so moved

Motion by Wolcott, Second by Landers: to adjourn the meeting. Aye: Porter, Ratliff, Wolcott, Brown, Earp, Landers, McElroy. Nay: None Motion Passed

Meeting was adjourned at 10:34am.