

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE August 19, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Assistant LMPO Director Debbie Dollarhite at 10:00 A.M. in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 212 SW 9th Street, Lawton, Oklahoma. Meeting notice and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by State Law.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Rogalski, Planning Director, City of Lawton**
Debbie Dollarhite, Assistant LMPO Director
Braden Cale, ODOT MPO Coordinator
Ryan Landers, General Manager, LATS
Brenda Spencer-Ragland, Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce
Randy Butler, Fort Sill Public Works
Tom Zigler, ASCOG
Jay Earp, ODOT Division VII Engineer
Barbara McNally, Lawton Fort Sill Regional Airport

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Simpson, Hwy Engineer Anadarko Area, BIA*
Adrian Tehauno, Comanche Nation*
Ronald C. Ahtone, Apache Tribe*
Chuck Tsoodle, Kiowa Tribe*
George Hennessee, Traffic Engineer, City of Lawton
Pearlie Tiggs, FTA Community Planner
Larry Wolcott, Public Works, City of Lawton
Isaac Akem, FHWA *

ALSO PRESENT: Travis Estep, Transportation Planner
Jonathan Stone, Transportation Planner
Tammy Anderson, Recording Secretary

*Non-Voting

**Entered meeting at 10:06 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 10, 2019 MEETING.

MOTION by McNally, SECOND by Butler, to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2019 meeting. AYES: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIED.

3. CONSIDER RECOMMENDING TO THE LMPO POLICY BOARD APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE LAWTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR SECTION 5303 TRANSIT PLANNING FOR FFY 2020.

The intent of this Agreement is to provide funding for the metropolitan transit planning process within the Lawton Metropolitan Area (LMA) as identified in the Fiscal Year 2020 Unified

Planning Work Program. This Agreement confirms that the LMPO will continue to maintain the “3 Cs” (comprehensive, continuing and cooperative) transportation planning process in order to provide the most desirable multi-modal transportation system that is compatible with community goals and at minimum expense.

Funding of the transportation planning process for the LMA is from three sources: FHWA PL fund, FTA Section 5303 fund, and the local match. These federal funds will reimburse up to 80% of the work effort identified in the Unified Planning Work Program, and the remaining 20% of the work effort is provided by the City of Lawton. Based on an agreed upon distribution formula approved by ODOT, the Section 5303 funds are \$25,000 annually. The FY 2020 UPWP identifies \$25,000 in Section 5303 funding for projects.

MOTION by McNally, SECOND by Landers, to recommend approval of the agreement between ODOT and the LMPO for Section 5303 transit planning for FFY 2020.
AYES: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIED.

4. RECEIVE THE DRAFT FFY 2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR REVIEW.

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a prioritized, fiscally-constrained, and multi-year list of federally-funded, multimodal transportation projects and operations in the Lawton Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (LMATS) area. Under federal law, the TIP must cover at least a four-year program of projects.

The purpose of the TIP is to identify all transportation projects receiving federal transportation or transit funding within the LMATS area. It is also to ensure coordination of transportation improvements by local, state, and federal agencies. In addition, projects in the TIP must be prioritized at the local level and have clearly identified funding sources. The road projects included in the FFY 2020 - 2023 TIP are:

1. NE Rogers Lane between I-44 and Village Drive
2. West Gore Boulevard between 67th and 82nd Streets

The TIP also includes the East Gore Boulevard Pedestrian Bridge over I-44, which was approved as a Transportation Alternatives Program project. Transportation planning funds, Section 5303 funds, CMAQ funds, and transit funding are also included. The TIP must be approved by the LMPO and ODOT.

Dollarhite said that while the Rogers Lane and Gore Boulevard projects are included in this TIP, she’s not sure which year they will fall under or how much they will cost.

Ragland asked if Lee Boulevard would be included in the TIP because the roadway is very rough.

Dollarhite said money would have to be allocated towards the project prior to it being included in the TIP. No federal funding has been allocated towards Lee Boulevard at this time.

Ragland said her primary concern is the area around Goodyear Boulevard, and City Council approved some design build for this area at their last meeting.

Rogalski said the Goodyear Boulevard project approved at City Council will come from City funds, not federal funds.

Butler asked how City funded projects are notated.

Rogalski said these projects are outlined on the city's CIP.

Butler noted that a consolidated list that outlines both city and federally funded projects on one document may be beneficial.

Rogalski said staff will gather this information together.

Dollarhite said she removed the project to reconstruct the westbound lanes of State Highway 7 over Cache Creek because ODOT has moved this project to FY 2025.

McNally asked if this plan could be approved without financial figures from engineering.

Dollarhite said this draft is preliminary, and the committee will receive the final draft at the next meeting.

5. RECEIVE A STATUS UPDATE ON THE 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN.

Estep said staff has been working consultant Woods and Poole, which is a resource for obtaining population data. According to data obtained from Woods and Poole and the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, the population within our MPO will increase by .5% per year. Given the data, Estep said staff anticipates an additional 5,100 households by the year 2045. Using standard .36 employment to population ratio, Estep said staff is expecting an additional 7,500 jobs in the area. Considering these figures, staff does not anticipate being mandated to widen streets within the MPO.

Estep said staff projects the primary population growth to be in the western portion of the MPO because it seems to be the direction that people are moving. Estep said staff is also anticipating some infill due to vacant houses within the city.

Dollarhite noted that all projects for 2011-2015 have been completed. Dollarhite said the I-44 and US62 interchange and the Southeast 45th Street projects from the 2016-2020 list of projects have also been completed. The next two priorities on the 2016-2020 list of projects are Rogers Lane from I-44 to Village Drive and Gore Boulevard from 67th to 82nd Street.

Estep said staff is waiting for more information from the city engineer before work can begin on Gore Boulevard.

Ragland asked how predictive growth on the westside was determined.

Estep said it was derived from data taken from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and consultant Woods & Poole. Estep said there also seems to be an increased interest in building homes in the Cache School District.

Estep said the transportation plan is on a 25 year horizon. However, the plan is updated every 5 years, so population can be reevaluated every 5 years.

Rogalski said ultimately we really don't know where the population growth will be, and when you're dealing with half-percent growth it's not a lot to divvy out.

Estep said staff had to make an educated guess for the purposes of the model.

Rogalski said long-term population growth should eventually shift eastward because there is a new 9 Mile Creek Sewage Basin on the east side of town. Staff is currently working on Scissortail subdivision, which is on the eastside. Also, Eastlake Addition is still being developed.

Rogalski said all the projects are street-widening projects.

Dollarhite said one of the projects listed for 2021-2025 was an extension of Goodyear Boulevard, constructing two lanes from Cache Road to US62. This project is being reevaluated after further discussion.

Rogalski said the LEDC hired consultant Garver LLC to do a report on the Goodyear Boulevard extension, but he's yet to hear the results of this report.

Dollarhite asked that committee members e-mail staff before the September meeting regarding projects they may want to see on this transportation plan.

Zigler said someone should take action regarding the freight route because this topic has been discussed for years.

Rogalski said he believes the freight route should be done in phases so that the cost will be broken up.

Zigler said he agrees, but some sort of plan needs to be developed.

6. REPORTS

Landers said LATS is in the middle of the bus tracking project, and they hope to be done by the end of the month.

Zigler asked if a lot of kids are riding the buses.

Landers said he hasn't seen the numbers yet, but it's usually around mid-September before they see an increase in student ridership.

Ragland asked if the location of the transit facility is still pending.

Rogalski said yes.

Butler said projects on Ft. Sill for FY 2020 will focus more on road rehabilitation. Ft Sill has three major roads in the FY 2020 program – Red Cloud Road, Ferguson Road, and a portion of Currie Road.

Butler said Mo-Way is still under construction but should be completed around May of 2020.

Ragland said National Site Selector Vicki Horton will visit Lawton and speak to the community during a luncheon at noon on September 29th.

McNally said Fire Station 2 should be open on October 31st. They will be awarding the bid for phase one of the terminal project during tomorrow's board meeting.

7. COMMENTS

None.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

RICHARD ROGALSKI, CHAIRMAN

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