

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Transportation Technical Committee meeting held March 15, 2022, 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 10:00 a.m. by Janet Smith.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ryan Landers
 Barbara McNally
 Joe Painter
 Krista Ratcliff
 Janet Smith
 Richard Rogalski for Larry Wolcott
 Tom Zigler (entered at 10:05)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dontria Davis
 Jay Earp
 Sara McElroy
 Debra Porter

ALSO PRESENT: Jonathon Stone, Planner
 Denise Ezell, Recording Secretary

2. Approve the minutes of February 1, 2022.

Motion by McNally, **Second** by Landers, to approve the minutes as written. **Nay:** Landers, McNally, Painter, Ratliff, Rogalski, Smith. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

3. Consider recommending the Transportation Policy Board approve the contract with Kimley-Horn for a Zero-Emission Bus Analysis and Rollout Plan for the Lawton Area Transit System.

Smith stated the committee met and decided to award the proposal to Kimley-Horn. We are trying to work out the legal side of the contract. We have worked out the scope and now the attorneys are looking at it.

Painter asked is it the contract that they are working on.

Smith stated yes, we were using a contract from several years ago and the City Attorney decided it wasn't written well. It turns out this contract wasn't written by attorneys. We have sent it back and forth. They have agreed to some of the changes and have added some. It was nothing major.

Rogalski asked what is the cost.

McNally stated \$130,000. It is shown on page eight (8).

Smith stated we will have to pay this over a couple of fiscal years.

Stone stated due to the amount we need to spread this across two (2) budget years, and is written in the contract.

Smith stated we have funds that must be spent this fiscal year, or we will lose them. They have agreed to invoicing us in two (2) fiscal years. The lead guy is Luke Schmitt and yesterday I sent him the FTA NOFO to be sure all this was included in the scope. I was impressed with the team we talked with. They answered the questions very expertly. Obviously, they have done this before and I feel confident we have made a good decision in our selection. If you have any technical questions, I can get them on the phone.

Landers asked what is the timeframe for this to kickoff.

Smith stated they are ready to start at any time. They will start as soon as the contract is approved. We are looking at nine (9) to twelve (12) months. They wanted to come do an inventory and look around to see what. They want to know for sure how this needs to be written to be appropriate for our system.

Stone stated the only thing that could delay them would be the location of the transfer center.

Smith stated I don't know it would delay it. I wouldn't put it that strongly. We assured them that we should have something designated within the next month. I don't think that will delay them. I think that will be something they move to the end of the study. They did ask the location of the hub. They need to look at that for the expense level of gas compared to electric, but they don't need to do that in the beginning.

Landers stated if it is possible to do it closer to the nine (9) or ten (10) month frame that is better because of grant funding opportunities. They typically come out in April or May, and you need to have the study and masterplan to be able to apply for federal grants.

Smith stated they brought that up. There is one coming up within the next month.

Rogalski stated yes, it closes May 31st.

Smith stated they are putting something together that will allow us to apply for grants. Do you remember what it was called?

Landers stated it is the Low and No Emissions grant. I sent Jonathon some material yesterday. One of the biggest things the FTA is going to require is a transition plan going from what you currently have to what you want to do. It might be difficult to go after this grant but once we have the study and masterplan it makes it more likely than not that we would be able to go after and win

several of those. The other thing is the infrastructure hasn't been laid out as to where everything is going, and I don't know if they will have that by the May timeframe. So, it might be better for next year. From what I read it looks like they are concentrating more on the interstate/highway portion of the charging stations or maybe that was more on the state side of it.

Rogalski stated yes, it is the state. How close is close? We are only a mile from downtown.

Landers stated that is true. If the state is trying to give you money for charging stations, I say take it. You can get the money on the FTA side afterwards. There is a lot of information going on right now and a lot of money be given. If you don't have things right, they are going to throw the application out. We are going about it the right way. The transfer center will be sewn up within the next thirty (30) days.

Rogalski stated I think Ryan is alluding to charging stations aren't just a LATS thing. It is almost like economic development at this point. Lawton is behind on charging stations. I think we only have the ones at the Hilton Gard Inn.

Landers stated this app is called Plug Share and it shows four (4).

McNally asked what other ones do we have.

Ratliff stated I use Charge Point and they only show the one at Hilton. Some of those might be privately owned. I registered mine.

Landers stated they could be private, but they are listed as charging points you can use.

Ratliff stated I have one at my house that I personally own. I'll open it to someone who needs to charge in an emergency. They must have permission first.

Rogalski stated that is very nice of you.

Ratliff stated EV users are friendly, but we are lacking in our community.

Rogalski stated it really takes away from the corridor if we don't have charging stations. We need to think about that as part of making ourselves electric friendly. It is beyond the LATS situation, but it is still an MPO area. It is a transportation related item.

Ratliff stated the Chamber applied through Tesla for a grant to place a station at the chamber. We were denied because there wasn't enough retail for Tesla to pay for it.

Smith stated there was a company that came into Blackwell we might contact. They have a lot of funding to put into things like that.

Rogalski stated I was thinking we might do like we did with the CNG where the city creates a partnership with a public and private side. That way we have our own side as well as a public side.

Landers stated they have done that with certain transit systems. There is one in Michigan and the private electric company paid for everything. They knew they would be reimbursed.

Rogalski stated I did reach out to PSO. They are pro electric in case you are wondering.

Painter asked what about the Triad Center.

Landers stated there is a lot of talk on the legislative side that they are wanting to dump a ton of money for electric vehicles. There is going to be a lot of opportunity for the state to get some money.

Smith stated that call was the City Attorney, and our issue right now is ownership of the intellectual property. He wants to be sure we own it and can use it as we need to. I will convey that to Kimley-Horn, but they shouldn't have a problem with that.

Painter stated it has become an issue lately.

Smith stated it has. I had this issue in another city with an engineering firm. They didn't want to release the intellectual property and didn't. They pulled the plug, and we lost all the information. Since then, this is an issue that I look at and I appreciate John doing so. We will make sure to strike number five (5).

Rogalski stated a motion could be made to accept the contract subject to approval of the city attorney.

Motion by Landers, Second by McNally, to recommend the Transportation Policy Board approve the contract with Kimley-Horn for a Zero-Emission Bus Analysis and Rollout Plan for the Lawton Area Transit System, subject to the approval of the City Attorney. **Aye:** Landers, McNally, Painter, Ratliff, Smith, Rogalski, Zigler. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

4. Reports.

Stone stated we have received three (3) responses for the traffic flow study. One from TEC, EST, and Kimley-Horn.

Painter asked which study is that.

Stone stated the traffic flow study for arterials.

Smith stated this study will cover the entire city.

Stone stated Phase I is Gore Boulevard east of Fort Sill Boulevard to Flowermound Road and a section of Cache Road.

Smith stated we have a lot of restaurants along Cache Road, and we have had lots of residents express their distain and concern for all the build up that is occurring. It was requested we do a traffic flow study. This could be helpful for CPC and engineering for lots of different reasons.

We have a lot of growth right now which means more traffic. We have a lot of roadwork occurring right now. Would you like to talk about Lee Boulevard?

Zigler stated yes, we opened the bids last Wednesday.

Painter stated T & G Construction was the low bidder.

Zigler asked have we looked at everything.

Painter stated we don't have the official word yet.

Zigler stated they were the low bidder out of three (3) bids. We are excited about that and waiting on the official answer.

Painter stated we will negotiate the contract and take it to Council as soon as we can.

Rogalski asked when can we look at another grant for another phase of that project.

Zigler stated let's get this one off the ground first.

Smith asked what is the scope of this project.

Zigler stated to redo Lee Boulevard as far as rehabbing. For years we have had complaints from the truck drivers that go in and out of the west industrial site that the road is so rough that it is hard to maintain their vehicle. Some drivers refuse to use that road. We don't want to lose the west industrial site. This gets Lee Boulevard straightened up even for the rest of us.

Smith asked is it going to be asphalt or concrete.

Painter stated it will be a mill and overlay. It is not a total reconstruction. It will be asphalt.

Rogalski stated this phase is. Tell them about the whole project.

Painter stated Lee Boulevard from Goodyear to I-44, Good Boulevard and the US 62 interchange is all one continuous project. That first section is an open section, traditional highway section, so it is a mill and overlay. When we get into the further sections of Lee Boulevard, we will have some total reconstruction and some rehab.

Rogalski asked when will the roads in front of Great Plains Technology Center be done.

Painter stated that is Phase III. Phase II is Goodyear Boulevard. We hope to get more funding for this. At the same time, we will be starting on US 62. We are trying to find funding to start the design for the US 62 Interchange. This will take a few years.

Smith asked so what is the milling side of it going to be. How far down are you going.

Painter stated it varies. They milled to take off the old and mill to smooth it out. There are several spots where we will have to do total reconstruction.

Smith asked did you say it was going to be asphalt.

Painter stated yes, that is why T & G won the project. They have an asphalt plant. They were substantially lower, and we will save quite a bit of money.

Zigler stated that always concerns me when they are that low.

Painter stated they were low on other projects but got it done. We haven't had many issues but yes that is usually a red flag they missed something.

Zigler stated you don't want to have to spend this money and then in a year or two go back and redo.

Smith asked isn't there a maximum percentage they are allowed to change the project.

Painter stated ten (10) percent.

Smith stated so we don't have to worry to much about change orders.

Painter stated change orders aren't the issue. The issue is when everything goes south, and they can't get it done and you have to call the bonding company. That a big pain but it won't happen here.

Zigler stated T & G contracts all over the state, so they are not going to do anything to ruin their reputation especially in their hometown.

Smith stated so we will be looking over the RFQ's and then we will bring those back.

Painter asked who did you say, EST, TEC and who was the third one.

Smith stated Kimley-Horn. The same group doing this one and they do really good work. Aren't they working with the city on several other projects?

Rogalski stated yes, but we like EST and TEC also. We like them all.

Painter stated TEC is the only true traffic engineering company in the state. They have had quite the corner on the market for a long time. They are our traffic consultant.

Smith stated Larry has mentioned them before. I know that we have some issues on Gore with the timing. You hear some say there aren't any issues but when you drive it you know there are.

Rogalski stated yes, I sat in front of the public safety building for about twelve (12) minutes.

Painter stated down by the public safety building is so complicated and it will never smooth out.

Smith stated it is a little further than that. It is really the I-44 area. Hopefully this traffic flow study will help us out.

5. Comments.

Smith stated I have asked Kameron to join us today. He is part of the Planning Department. I like to cross train because it ends up helping everyone.

Ratliff stated we are looking at the Holiday In The park. We have met twice and will be meeting monthly. In Phase I we are going to meet with the city team and figure out new partitions to help better direct traffic. Parking has been an issue for years but with 100,000 guest we experienced it at a whole new level. We want to put in new barriers and block aids. My team moved the barriers every day and people would move them or drive around them. The city has those nice metal poles, and we want to put up a couple more of those for pedestrian safety. We will look at signage at the road. We received two (2) calls from the highway patrol and Lawton Police because traffic was backed up on I-44. We want to make certain we get people in and out faster. We have our permit from the city for the Armed Forces Day Parade. Larry is and has been a big partner and we are excited for his help and knowledge. On the ARPA we are up to \$337,000,000 that moved to the next level. We are hopeful we will get some of that.

Rogalski asked is there a list of those that moved forward. I haven't seen it.

Ratliff stated yes, I'll email it to you. There are about eight (8) projects that moved forward. Some were big ticket items, so we are hopeful. We submitted \$700,000,000 which is a lot for a community, but we figured why not try. So, \$347,000,000 moved forward.

Smith asked did the Chamber do the LOVE display in the park.

Ratliff stated yes, as of now we have no sponsor for it. We designed it and Great Plains made it. It is metal and each letter weights three hundred (300) pounds. Inside the letter is a gate that you place our lock on. We put it on social media and our thoughts were couples would go out, but we have a lot of families with soldiers and children that placed locks. People were writing on their locks. We have partnered with a local engraver and locksmith if they want their lock engraved. It is built to withstand hundreds of pounds of locks. Once it is packed, we cut them off. It has been a big hit. We were going to leave it just for the holiday season, but now we are going to ask Council if we can leave it permanently.

Smith stated that is great.

McNally asked if the airport wanted to do a display at Christmas who designs those.

Ratliff stated we are not allowing any private displays designed by private people. You are more than welcome to send me a design. We have limits and don't want anything less than twelve (12) feet.

McNally asked so we would have to construct it.

Ratliff stated no, we have a team who does that. Funding is our issue, so we like to partner in funding it.

McNally stated we could call it advertising for the airport.

Ratliff stated yes, you get a sign by it. Send me your recommendation and once we get a draft from our designer, we send it to you for your approval. We don't accept any communities displays that are privately owned or built.

McNally stated I'll bring it to the board. We want the airport represented.

Rogalski stated you could have an airplane that spins around. That would be cool.

McNally stated yes, I totally want to do something cool to represent the airport.

Ratliff stated the committee is excited. We have decided to do a new theme and to keep the theme for three (3) years. It is going to be "Around The World". Each year we will add displays that are themed for the seven (7) different continents. We will have like the Eiffel Tower and the Statute of Liberty. We will also have an American theme and general Christmas.

McNally stated I like the spinning idea with the plane and maybe a globe. I love it.

Landers stated in April we have our Try-Transit Week coinciding with our 20th Anniversary of LATS on April 27th. More information will be presented this week.

Smith stated we are doing some marketing with KSWO for bike safety and Air Quality. We are working on those so you will be seeing some new ads. Part of the timing for this was the Try-Transit week.

6. Adjournment.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.