

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Transportation Technical Committee meeting held August 9, 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: Jay Earp
 Ryan Landers
 Barbara McNally
 Debra Porter*
 Krista Ratcliff
 Janet Smith
 Larry Wolcott
 Tom Zigler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dontria Davis
 Sara McElroy (by Phone)
 Joe Painter

ALSO PRESENT: Jonathon Stone, Transportation Planner

2. Verify posting of meeting.

Recommended Action: Verification of posting time and date.

Posted on August 5, 2022 at 4:20 p.m.

3. Introductions.

Recommended Action: Introduction of all individuals present.

Janet Smith, Director of Planning
Larry Wolcott, Direct of Public Works
Tom Zigler, Director of CED ASCOG
Jay Earp, ODOT
Barbara McNally, Lawton Fort Sill Regional Airport
Ryan Landers, LATS
Krista Ratcliff, Chamber
Jonathan Stone, Transportation Planner
Denise Ezell, COL Staff

BUSINESS

4. Discussion and consideration for recommending specific projects to the Transportation Policy Board for the Phase 1 Scope of Services with EST for the Traffic Flow Study.

Recommended Action: A motion recommending specific projects to the Transportation Policy Board for the Phase 1 Scope of Services with EST for the Traffic Flow Study.

Smith stated the ETS proposal dated July 20th is in your packet. We have been trying to negotiate a cost that the LMPO could afford. Based on the discussions of the Transportation Technical Committee as well as the Policy Board, we have refined our area. We have narrowed it down to a couple of these two (2) Task Orders with some projects assigned for each of them. Page seven (7) is a project fee breakdown and Task Order One (1) ended up being about \$105,000. Task Order Two (2), Project One (1) is \$34,460. Jonathan is going to go over the details of the scope of the project.

Stone stated Task Order One (1), Project Four (4) will cover Gore Boulevard between 2nd Street and Laurie Tatum Road. This was identified as the highest priority from previous meetings. Task Order Two (2), Project One (1) covers the intersections of 27th and 31st Street at Gore Boulevard and the Cameron University/Memorial Hospital intersection at Gore Boulevard. This was the second highest priority. The total was \$139,460.

Smith stated we originally set aside \$130,000 for this study. The two (2) main projects we just discussed is just shy of \$140,000. We were able to shift monies around and come up \$10,000 to accommodate this study. Larry are these areas going to help you with what you do for the city. Is this beneficial to you for the traffic flow for the lights.

Wolcott stated absolutely. Looking at signal coordination is beneficial but, going through and looking at the geometrical improvements that can be made at intersections considering pedestrians, bicycles, and crash accident history is all beneficial for sure.

Smith stated okay, so it is money well spent that the city can utilize the study. We had a lot of discussion over Laurie Tatum Road. Is that the area by the casino with the temporary light?

Stone stated yes.

Smith stated and we did not include the intersection of 4th and 6th on Gore Boulevard.

Stone stated no.

Smith stated this was discussed, and I believe we were going to get with Larry about those intersections. I believe they discussed taking one light out and making the other a flashing yellow light. Jonathan, do you remember the discussion.

Stone stated I believe that is correct. They were going to keep the 6th Street light and remove 4th Street because City Hall and the police station are no longer there.

Smith stated those areas were not included because we felt it could be handled inhouse.

Landers asked when will it start.

Smith stated they are ready to start. They are waiting on us to determine what we want.

Landers stated we would be very intrigued about that especially with the bus routes going through there.

Earp stated I'm assuming the worse time of the day is 5:00 p.m. going eastbound. I'm talking on Gore between Railroad and Laurie Tatum.

Wolcott stated 4:45 to 5:15.

Earp asked what about in the mornings going westbound from east Lawton.

Wolcott stated it is not as bad.

Earp stated we want to make certain the consultant observes what is going on. They might come during the hours of 10:00 a.m. and leave at 3:00 p.m. and not see what we are dealing with. We want to make sure they are getting good data at peak hours. I'm sure they will but I would suggest they look at it on several different days during peak hours.

Smith stated on page two (2) Task Two A (2A) they refer to some of the studies they will be looking at and the bus route study is one of those. I feel they will coordinate with Larry on times since the city has established a relationship with them. Do you feel these accommodate what we are looking for?

Earp stated Task Four (4) the bottom bold bullet "provide improvement options which include" and the first white bullet "upgrade new signal design such as providing timing phase changes". So, Task Order Four (4) we are not having them do right now. Is that correct?

Wolcott stated no, we will have them do that. It includes the first three (3) as well.

Earp stated so Task Order One (1) includes Task Four (4).

Stone stated the Task Order in the text and the projects are not the same.

Smith stated oh, they don't correlate.

Earp stated okay, we want to make sure we are getting Task Four and Task Order One.

Smith stated right.

Stone stated we are.

Earp stated okay.

Smith stated at the bottom of page three (3) under “deliverables” it says what they will summarize and that is everything considered in Task Four (4).

McNally stated your recommendation is One (1) Four (4) and Two (2) One (1). Is that right.

Smith stated yes. Is there any further discussion? If not, can I entertain a motion.

Motion by Earp, Second by McNally, to recommend recommending specific projects to the Transportation Policy Board for the Phase 1 Scope of Services with EST for the Traffic Flow Study. **Aye:** Earp, Landers, McNally, Porter, Ratliff, Smith, Wolcott, Zigler. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

5. Discussion and consideration for recommending approval of a Resolution adopting Amendment 1 for the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to the Transportation Policy Board for the Lawton Metropolitan Transportation Planning process.

Recommended Action: A motion recommending approval to the Transportation Policy Board of a Resolution adopting Amendment 1 for the FY23 UPWP.

Smith stated this resolution is going to include the amendment.

Stone stated this will approve our recommendation to the policy board to amend the Unified Planning Work Program.

Smith stated on the agenda item commentary we have outlined the details of the amendment. ODOT has approved setting aside \$75,000 for the Land Use Plan that needs to be updated. It has not been updated since 2008 and we are ready for the 2050 Land Use Plan. We were able to set aside some funding for that. This is an amendment to the budget that would allow us to include that in the UPWP.

Motion by Landers, Second by Wolcott, to recommend approval of a Resolution adopting Amendment 1 for the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to the Transportation Policy Board for the Lawton Metropolitan Transportation Planning process. **Aye:** Landers, McNally, Porter, Ratliff, Smith, Wolcott, Zigler. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

CONSENT

(all items are in support of the FY23 UPWP)

Smith stated on the consent agenda all items can be approved under one motion. Number six (6) is Consider recommending to the Transportation Policy Board approval of the supplement to the Annual Agreement between the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization for transportation planning. Number seven (7) Consider recommending approval of the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City

of Lawton (COL) and the Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization (LMPO) to the Transportation Policy Board for Metropolitan Transportation Planning for FY 2023.

6. Consider recommending to the Transportation Policy Board approval of the supplement to the Annual Agreement between the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization for transportation planning.

Recommended Action: A motion recommending approval of the supplement to the Annual Agreement to the Transportation Policy Board.

7. Consider recommending approval of the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Lawton (COL) and the Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization (LMPO) to the Transportation Policy Board for Metropolitan Transportation Planning for FY 2023.

Recommended Action: A motion recommending approval of the revised FY23 MOU to the Transportation Policy Board.

Motion by Landers, Second by Ratliff, to approve the consent agenda. **Aye:** McNally, Porter, Ratliff, Smith, Wolcott, Zigler, Earp, Landers. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

8. Reports or Comments.

Ratliff stated last year the chamber facilitated Holiday In The Park. We worked with the streets department and were grateful for the signage to help with traffic flow. We estimated there were a 100,000 people in attendance. Those estimates were done two (2) different ways. We had traffic counters that told us how many cars came through and the chamber has a data software that allows us to track every dollar spent and which community it came from or what zip code the dollar originated from. We estimated about thirty percent (30%) of those were from out of state with the majority coming from Texas. We placed billboards in Texas, and we think that was successful. We are investing in Holiday In The Park again. We doubled it last year and hope to double it again this year. We have about \$200,000 in committed donations to expand. We will need to work closely with the Streets Department again. We had two (2) situations last year where traffic backed up on I-44 which was a good thing. This has never happened before, but we want to make sure we are having that experience. Local traffic must have a way around and signage is good. We had people asking “where is Elmer Thomas Park”. We know where it is because we live here but if you are from Texas you don’t know. Also, locals who wanted to use Ferris couldn’t. It was backed up all the way down Ferris. We will continue to work on that. I want to give a special thank you to Larry and his team in facilitating all that.

Smith stated and the paving that has occurred.

Ratliff stated that will help too.

Smith stated that is how you know it was successful is the number of cars that were backed up. You see that in Chickasha and other cities.

Earp asked how were you able to figure out the breakdown of the money.

Ratliff asked are you talking about fund raising.

McNally stated the software.

Ratliff stated we have software that geofences certain locations from dollars spent on a credit card and not cash.

Earp asked so it analyzed the credit card transactions.

Ratliff stated yes, and where it originates from. That is not just for Holiday In The Park. The software is for the chamber and tourism. I can tell you if you eat at Texas Roadhouse that you live in Connecticut. If it is on a Friday that we have graduation we put two (2) and two (2) together. We also know they went to our museum, stayed in our hotel, and flew in at our airport. We know where they spend their dollars, and we target them. We also target the front end. If you search the internet for Fort Sill military graduation, we hit them with advertising. We say come stay at Apache Hotel Casino, eat at our restaurants, or go to our museums. We can target marketing and advertisement as well. Does that answer your question?

Earp stated it does. Why I ask is I-44 and Highway 81 corridor are two (2) of the best kept secrets in Oklahoma to get to Dallas Fort Worth. I'm trying to figure out a way to get the word out to people that these are a better corridor to get to Dallas from Oklahoma than I-35.

Ratliff stated the Mayor has asked me to take the lead on a project to get 81 designated as a US Interstate. I'm working with the chambers in Dallas and Wichita Falls to get a partnership to push this forward and help the cause. That is probably where his interest lies as well.

Earp stated so Highway 81 through Waurika is an interstate highway.

Ratliff stated I guess. I haven't read the study or the information. He reached out and asked me to take the lead.

Earp stated thank you.

Landers stated the first day of school is Thursday and we are trying to get revved up and remembering to slow down in the school zones. There will be more ridership and we are excited about that. The agreement should be done this month.

Smith stated Caitlyn Gatlin, our PR person, put a video on Facebook about the school zones. She used the police, and it was really good. We have an A1 talent in Caitlyn. The background she has raises us to a whole new level. She does fantastic advertisement and new stories for the city. The school zone video was really good. Not a word was said. It was all music and you had to read the captions. You should share the deer story she did.

Landers stated I'm not sure if anyone has watched the deer video.

Ratliff stated I have received messages from New York, Virginia, and California. This is your town.

McNally stated how could you miss it.

Landers stated it was on CNN and the Today Show.

Smith stated and News Max.

McNally asked did it die.

Landers stated no.

Ratliff stated the bus driver just opened the door.

McNally stated I didn't hear the rest of the story.

Landers stated there were two (2) deer. One passed and the other went through the window. After it got situated, it walked out.

Ratliff stated Caitlyn pointed out how your employee focused on safety.

Landers stated we got a call from the manufacture of the barriers asking if they could use us a selling point. We had a couple of interesting weeks with that.

McNally stated we are moving forward with the terminal projects. Our bids were higher than expected but the Airport Authority approved them. By October we should have the old boarding gate closed off and proceed with demolition. There is a temporary room we will be using as a boarding gate. It's going to be a little painful for a while, but it will be worth it.

Earp stated as you go north out of town there maybe some delay at the bridge at I-44 and Highway 49. We hope to have a traffic switch the second week of September. They are two (2) or three (3) weeks ahead of schedule. The weather has been cooperative, and they have worked quickly. They will pour the deck on the southbound bridge next week. One purpose for the repairs is the low clearance and it being hit a lot. We put in a different beam to allow a little more clearance. Then we rebuilt all the elements of the bridge. You will have two (2) good bridge decks to drive over. How bad is the backup in the evenings?

Wolcott stated it doesn't.

Earp stated good. It is weird how some days there will be a jam that doesn't clear for a couple hours and on other days it is smooth.

Wolcott stated it is like that first driver. Once they start that accordion affect it is hard to recover from that.

Earp stated correct. Another project is our Rogers Lanes safety improvement project. We are rebalancing the eight (8) year work plan and hope to move that forward. The plans are farther along than anticipated. One of the next steps is to educate the public and then meet with city staff. There will be changes that will be different. A lot of time different for some people isn't good but it will be safer.

Wolcott stated it will reduce crashes, so it is good for everybody.

Earp stated yes, it will reduce crashes. We will have another meeting with city staff and anyone who wants to be involved. It's an education process. The hope is to build in 2025. If things go more quickly, we might build in 2024.

Smith asked on Rogers Lanes towards 82nd Street there are sound barriers for a very short length. Are there plans to continue those along Rogers Lane and why were the walls put at one end and not all the way down Rogers Lane.

Earp stated at the time the road was built they would have done a noise study. At that time ODOT owed those property owners a noise barrier. Anything built after the road knew what they were getting. I don't know if these are newer homes you are talking about. Some of those walls are retaining walls and not sound barriers. We have been asked since Fort Sill torn down their housing if we will be removing the noise wall. It is very expensive to tear down the noise wall and it is a good barrier.

Smith asked what about the mowing along there. There is a lot of tall grass and weeds. I believe that is ODOT's.

Earp stated that belongs to the city.

Smith stated okay, so none of that belongs to ODOT for maintenance.

Earp stated no.

Smith stated great. Now I know who to talk with.

Wolcott stated Parks and Recreation.

Earp stated they use to do a pretty good job.

Smith stated it got ahead of everyone this summer. There is a traffic pole that looks like it was ran over and point towards traffic. I notice it every time I pass Rogers Lane and I-44.

Earp stated that would be ours. I wonder if it is still there.

Smith stated it is bent over and if you veered a little you would run over it.

Earp asked are you going east or westbound and is it at the bridge.

Smith stated going east at the stop light.

Earp stated Indian Trail.

Smith stated the neighborhood before you stop.

Wolcott stated Sneed Acres.

Earp stated okay, I'll get somebody to pull it up. Anytime you see a hazard like that let us know. We have a Lawton Yard at 11th Street, and they do that for a living. Right now, they are weed eating the cable barrier.

Smith stated okay, it just knowing who to call.

Wolcott stated or call me. It is possible it could be ours. We have some signs out there like "No Engine Braking".

Smith stated okay. It is nice to have you here today. Do you have anything to share from Fort Sill.

Porter stated thank you. I do have a couple of things for situational awareness. We are closing Bentley Gate, which is the Sheridan Road gate, from August 15th through the end of September. Traffic will be shifted over to Scott Gate, which is Fort Sill Boulevard or down further. Be aware you may see cars turning around and it may cause some backup. On December 1st we will be closing Fort Sill Boulevard gate, Scott Gate, and it will be closed through April 31st. We have more closing, but they are in 2023. I'll discuss those as they get closer.

Smith stated great.

Zigler stated SORTPO (Southwest Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization), our rural transportation planning organization between ASC OG and SWODA, just received notice from Senator Inhofe that we received a RAISE grant for \$1.5 million to do freight plan study. We are excited about that.

Smith asked did you say freight.

Zigler stated freight plan study.

Smith stated really. Wow that is good.

Wolcott stated we have a lot of street construction going on. We have eight (8) projects inhouse in addition to all the engineering projects. We are trying to take advantage of all this hot weather with no rain.

Earp stated I haven't driven Lee in a while how is the overlay project coming along.

Wolcott stated that is an engineering project and I haven't driven it either.

McNally stated I drive it every day and it is wonderful. They are making good progress.

Smith stated Jonathan and I keep looking at all kinds of transportation grants and studies. Anything we think could bring us some money to do some things we are looking at. We had a meeting with Federal Highways Administration, Isaac, a couple of weeks ago. We got some information on some different projects. One project focus that was interesting was on ways to mediate issues that are caused from areas of the cities being separated from each other.

Stone stated it is a reconnecting communities grant to mediate impact of transportation and infrastructure that has divided a community. It can be anything from an interstate to an arterial road that keeps a neighborhood from a school. If it is a transportation infrastructure, rail line, or airport. Any sort of transportation infrastructure.

Smith stated it would be exciting if we were able to come up with a project that meets the scope of the parameters of what they are looking for. We are looking into that now and hope to bring some ideas to you before long. We are excited to get our thinking caps on and come up with ideas that we have never thought of before. The amounts were pretty large. I believe it was \$5,000,000 on the project side.

Stone stated that is the minimum on the construction side. The minimum cost for project side was \$200,000 to \$2,000,000.

Smith stated that would give some money to plan something with.

9. Adjournment.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.