

SPECIAL MEETING
TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
February 2, 2021

The meeting was called to order by LMPO Director Richard Rogalski 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, LMPO Director
Larry Wolcott, Public Works Director, City of Lawton
Sarah McElroy, ODOT MPO Coordinator**
Tom Zigler, ASCOG
Jay Earp, ODOT Division VII Engineer
Barbara McNally, Lawton Fort Sill Regional Airport
Ryan Landers, General Manager, LATS
Randy Butler, Fort Sill Public Works
Isaac Akem, FHWA* **

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Simpson, Hwy Engineer Anadarko Area, BIA*
Adrian Tehauno, Comanche Nation*
Ronald C. Ahtone, Apache Tribe*
Chuck Tsoodle, Kiowa Tribe*
Pearlie Tiggs, FTA Community Planner*
Krista Ratliff, Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce
Joseph Painter, City Engineer, City of Lawton

ALSO PRESENT: Stanley Booker, Mayor
Tammy Anderson, Recording Secretary
Jonathan Stone, Transportation Planner**

*Non-Voting **attended via conference call

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 9, 2020 MEETING.

MOTION by Zigler, SECOND by Landers, to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2020 meeting.

AYES: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIED.

3. CONSIDER RECOMMENDING THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR A TRANSIT MASTER PLAN AND FORM A COMMITTEE OF STAFF AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO REVIEW RESPONSES TO THE RFQ.

Fixed route public transportation service in Lawton is provided by the Lawton Area Transit System (LATS). This service started in 2004, and currently operates 9 fixed route buses, complimentary paratransit, and a Fort Sill Shuttle that services Fort Sill.

A Transit Master Plan will provide short and long-term recommendations to address public transit needs, such as route structure, infrastructure, and overall improvements in service, in the Lawton Metropolitan Area.

Rogalski said the project scope of work shall include the following:

- 1) Review and assessment of available data and studies.
- 2) Vision, goals, and objectives for at least the next 5 years.
- 3) Identify existing conditions and projections for the City of Lawton.
- 4) Data collection.
- 5) Update modal plans to provide context and policy detail to clarify the type of facilities needed to accommodate all transit modes in consideration of travel contexts such as speed, volume, and adjacent land use.
- 6) Development of a Capital Improvement Plan that identifies need, prioritization, and cost estimation of operations and/or physical transit improvements to the City's transit system.
- 7) Review of applicable local, state, and federal regulations related to transportation and recommended changes to local rules.
- 8) Coordination with City's Planning Department.
- 9) Public outreach (as required) – Anticipate at least one open house or public forum to discuss concerns and at least one final presentation to Transportation Technical Committee.

Rogalski said the City's most recent CIP initiative that was passed includes some funding for a transit transfer center.

Zigler asked if the Transit Master Plan is included in the UPWP.

Stone said the Transit Master Plan is not currently included in the UPWP. He said staff will add the Plan to the UPWP and bring an updated version of the UPWP back to the Technical Committee in April.

Zigler asked why this item is being brought to the Committee if it's not currently in the UPWP.

Rogalski said this item is only seeking approval of the Request for Qualifications. The Committee is not expected to take action on a contract at this time. He said the contract would be brought before the Committee for approval at a future meeting. He said the Transit Master Plan would have to be added to the UPWP before a contract can be voted on.

Akeem asked if staff has a cost estimate for the Transit Master Plan.

Stone said the LMPO has just over \$70,000 in 5303 grants available for this project.

Rogalski said the City would provide a 20% match to the grant funding, so the Transit Master Plan would be an approximately \$100,000 study.

Landers said once the Master Plan is completed, LATS will be in a better position to apply for Federal grant money.

Zigler asked if the Master Plan will determine the location of the Transit Transfer Center.

Rogalski said the City Council appointed a Committee to select the location of the Transit Transfer Center. He said the options have been narrowed down, and staff is now looking more closely at one particular location. However, Rogalski said there is some property that would have to be acquired before moving forward with this preferred location. Staff is working to obtain a cost estimate.

Akeem asked if staff has coordinated with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regarding the Transit Master Plan.

Stone said he has been working with ODOT Transit Division.

Landers said the FTA will eventually get involved with the Transit Master Plan, but the Plan first goes through ODOT.

Rogalski asked if there were any volunteers to serve on a committee to review responses to the RFQ.

Landers said he cannot.

McNally said she would volunteer.

Rogalski said he, Stone, and Wolcott will participate on the committee as staff members.

Earp said he'd like to reach out to someone with ODOT who may have expertise in this area.

McElroy said she suggests someone from ODOT Transit Division serve on the committee.

Earp said he feels comfortable serving on the committee.

McNally said she thinks there are enough volunteers without her participation.

MOTION by Zigler, SECOND by Earp, to recommend that the Transportation Policy Board approve the Request for Qualifications for a Transit Master Plan and form a committee, to include Rogalski, Wolcott, Stone, and Earp, to review responses to the RFQ.
AYES: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIED.

4. REPORTS

Akeem said there will be a MPO Coordinating Committee meeting on Friday.

McNally said the runway will be closed until February 8th. She said the runway has received a lot of panel replacements and installation of under drains on both sides of the runway.

McNally said the baggage claim area of the terminal project is due to be complete in mid-April, at which time the next two phases of the terminal project will begin.

Landers said LATS has been operating on a reduced schedule since last March. Landers said LATS has lost 15 operators since March. Landers said LATS has since increased their wages by 20% in an attempt to draw more candidates for employment.

Landers said LATS has had a federal mask mandate in place since last March.

Landers said LATS received approximately \$107,000 through the State through the CARES Act funding for PPE equipment, barriers for all LATS vehicles, and several other necessities. He said this was publicized by the media last Friday.

Butler said the Fort Sill Public Works Department closed out the 2020 fiscal year successfully being able to award two road projects on secondary roads - Ferguson Rd and Currie Rd. He said while these are secondary roads, these roads still receive a fair amount of traffic (to include LATS buses).

Butler said his staff is constantly reviewing roadway conditions on Ft. Sill. He said they just completed a paver assessment, which is an assessment program that was developed by the Core of Engineers and is used throughout the DOD. He said this assessment revealed a lot of roadway degradation.

Butler said the Director of Emergency Services (DES) has switched out equipment at some of the gate guard booths. Butler said a few of the guard booths are awaiting new equipment, but all booths should be replaced within the next couple of weeks.

Bulter said his Department will be receiving budget cuts of approximately 50% for 2021.

Earp said the Transportation Commission approved the 8-Year Work Plan and the Asset Preservation Plan in December 2020. He said the Comanche County area will see one additional project – State Highway 17 eastbound from Elgin to Sterling will receive reconstruction.

Earp said ODOT has a contract with Freese and Nichols for the Rogers Lane safety improvement project. Earp said Freese and Nichols has a notice to proceed to start looking at options. He said several internal stateholders meetings will take place. One of these meetings will include Fort Sill, the City of Lawton, and ODOT. There will also be a few public meetings.

Zigler said ASCOG is waiting to hear from the legal department of the Economic Development Administration on how to proceed with the Lee Boulevard project. He said the first phase of this project will address Lee Boulevard from Goodyear Blvd to SW 38th Street. He said the next phase will include Lee Boulevard from SW 38th Street to I-44. He said ASCOG will be applying for another grant for the second phase.

Rogalski said City staff is close to having a recommendation of what three projects to focus on regarding the Goodyear Boulevard extension project.

Rogalski said staff is working on adopting a pavement analysis for the City of Lawton. He said this is crucial to the prioritization of roadway improvement projects.

Rogalski said LETA has completed landscaping improvements on Sheridan Road outside of the Fort Sill gate.

Butler said the landscaping is very attractive, but he hopes the weather will allow for plant growth.

Rogalski said they've provided irrigation to help facilitate proper growth.

5. COMMENTS

Akeem said Federal Highways has put out a request for nominations for alternative fuel corridors. He said the deadline for submission of nominations is February 24th.

Zigler said the Southwest Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization has made recommendations for incorporationg alternative fuel corridors on US81 and US62 in and around the cities of Comanche and Duncan.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

RICHARD ROGALSKI, CHAIRMAN

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