

Sherman – Denison Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
POLICY BOARD
AGENDA

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 @ 8:00 am
Grayson County Courthouse,
Commissioners' Court
100 W. Houston St., Sherman, Texas

Please visit our MPO website www.sdmpo.org for background materials under the "Committees/Meetings" link or under "News and Announcements" at our home page.

- I. Call to order
- II. Acknowledgment of Quorum by Chairman

Action Items:

- III. [Consider Approval of the Minutes of the MPO Policy Board Meeting of April 5, 2017](#)
- IV. [Review and Approval of a Resolution Affirming Expansion of the Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary](#)

Information/Presentation Items:

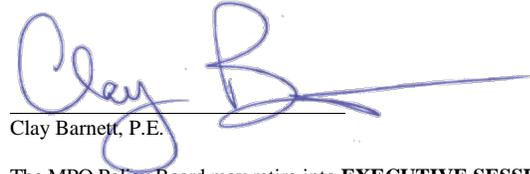
- V. Public Comment Period
- VI. Adjournment

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - At the conclusion of all other agenda items, the MPO Policy Board (PB) will allow for a public comment period, not to exceed fifteen minutes, to receive public comment on any other matter that is under the jurisdiction of the PB. No action will be taken. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of three minutes. The use of a single spokesperson to represent a group of people is encouraged. Where there are large numbers of persons who wish to address the PB on a single matter, the Chairman may decrease the amount of time available to each person who wishes to address the PB. Speakers must be signed up prior to the beginning of the public comment period.

All meetings of the Sherman-Denison Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) are open to the public. The MPO is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodations and equal opportunity for effective communications will be provided upon request. Please contact Julie Lollar at the County Judge's Office at 903.813.4228 at least 24 hours in advance if accommodation is needed.

The above notice was posted at the Grayson County Courthouse in a place readily accessible to the public and made available to the Grayson County Clerk on April 21, 2017.

NOTE: The MPO Policy Board (PB) agenda/packet is only distributed digitally, no paper copies will be sent. If you need a printed copy please contact MPO staff.



Clay Barnett, P.E.

The MPO Policy Board may retire into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** pursuant to the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, to discuss any item posted on this agenda and take appropriate action as necessary.

SHERMAN-DENISON MPO
POLICY BOARD
Grayson County Courthouse
Commissioners Courtroom
April 5, 2017 8:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Mayor Jared Johnson	City of Denison
Mayor David Plyler, Chairman	City of Sherman
Judge William Magers	Grayson County
Mayor Frank Budra	Small Cities Representative (Pottsboro)
Noel Paramanatham, P.E.	TxDOT Paris District Engineer

Board Members Absent:

None

Ex-Officio Members Present:

None

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Josh Walker	Texoma Area Paratransit System
Sarah Hinton	North Texas Regional Airport

Non-Voting Members Present:

Barbara Maley	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
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Non-Voting Members Absent:

Nick Page	TxDOT TPP Division
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Technical Advisory Committee Members Present:

Aaron Bloom, P.E.	TxDOT Sherman Area Engineer
Clint Philpott, P.E.	City of Sherman
Judson Rex, AICP	City of Denison

Staff Present:

Clay Barnett, P.E.	Sherman-Denison MPO
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Guests Present:

Jeff Whitmire	Grayson County
Michael Hutchins	Herald Democrat
Shellie White	Texoma Area Paratransit System
Joe Penson	Texoma Area Paratransit System
Robby Hefton	City of Sherman
Len McManus, P.E.	McManus & Johnson Consulting Engineers
John Ho, P.E.	Huitt-Zollars, Inc.

1 **I. Call to Order**

2
3 Chairman Plyler called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

4
5 **II. Acknowledgment of Quorum by Chair**

6
7 Chairman Plyler declared a quorum of the Policy Board present.

8
9 **III. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the February 2, 2017 Policy Board meeting**

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11 Motion to approve was made by Judge Magers, seconded by Mayor Budra. Motion carried.

12
13 **IV. PUBLIC MEETING: Review and approve the Draft Amendment to the 2016 – 2017**
14 **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

15
16 Mr. Barnett explained that this is an amendment to our current UPWP. He explained that there
17 were two items that had changed: 1) Added Task 2.3 so that the information could be sent to the
18 state for the statewide modeling effort, and 2) added the Thoroughfare Plan. Judge Magers
19 asked if we could move forward with the Thoroughfare Plan once the public meeting was held.
20 Mr. Barnett confirmed that we could move forward with the Thoroughfare Plan at the conclusion
21 of the public meeting.

22
23 Mayor Plyler opened the public meeting at 8:04 a.m.

24
25 No citizens appeared before the Policy Board to discuss this item.

26
27 Mayor Plyler closed the public meeting at 8:05 a.m.

28
29 Motion to approve was made by Mayor Budra, seconded by Mayor Johnson. Motion carried.

30
31 **V. Review the Draft 2018 – 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and**
32 **approve that it be submitted to TxDOT and FHWA/FTA, and released to the public for**
33 **review and comment**

34
35 Mr. Barnett explained that the UPWP is the two year budget for the Sherman-Denison MPO. He
36 stated that it would begin October 1, 2017 and end October 1, 2019. Mr. Barnett explained that
37 the action requested today was an approval to submit the draft UPWP to our partners at
38 TxDOT/FHWA/FTA for review and comment. Mr. Barnett stated that there would be some
39 changes to the document prior to final approval. Once such change he noted was that funds
40 would need to be allocated for updating the website to be HTML 5.0 compliant. Mr. Barnett also
41 noted that there is funds allocated for an update to the TIP for FY 2018 and funds allocated for
42 the 2020-2021 UPWP. Mr. Barnett noted that there are funds allocated in FY 2019 for an update
43 to the MTP, which is done every five years. Mr. Barnett stated that he allocated some funds in
44 FY 2019 to being completing a Freight Mobility Plan and that it may need some additional
45 funding in the 2020-2021 UPWP. Mr. Barnett stated that he believes that this is a critical item
46 due to a meeting he attended where freight was discussed. At the meeting a plan was presented

1 that indicated Dallas North Tollway as a freight corridor and did not include a good portion of
2 US 75. Mr. Barnett stated that it was apparent that the state did not understand the importance of
3 US 75 for the freight network in Texas and that a Freight Mobility Plan could be used to explain
4 this. Mr. Barnett noted that we did receive a funding request from TAPS and this was the first
5 time in in ten years that TAPS has participated in the UPWP and thanked them for their
6 partnership and that he looked forward to continuing to work with them.
7

8 Judge Magers stated that he had contacted Ms. Linda Harper Brown at TEX-21 in regards to the
9 Freight Mobility Plan and that she had reached out to Mr. Bill Hale, P.E. to see if US 75 could be
10 added to the Freight Mobility Network and that US 75 had been added to the Freight Mobility
11 Network. This was confirmed by Mr. Noel Paramanatham, P.E. Judge Magers stated that this
12 item should be before that Texas Transportation Commission in the next sixty days.
13

14 Mr. Barnett stated that we did need action to submit the Draft 2018 – 2019 Unified Planning
15 Work Program (UPWP) to TxDOT/FHWA/FTA and the public for review and comment. He
16 also stated that the draft UPWP would be placed on the June agenda for a public meeting and
17 final approval.
18

19 Motion to approve was made by Judge Magers, seconded by Mayor Johnson. Motion carried.
20

21 **VI. Update on the MPO Coordination Rule**

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23 Mr. Barnett gave a brief history on the MPO coordination rule. He explained that a bill to repeal
24 the rule has been approved by the Senate and is working its way through the House and that it
25 looks very positive. Judge Magers added that it passed the senate with a unanimous vote and
26 that Congressman Ratcliff has co-sponsored the House version of the bill. Judge Magers added
27 that this rule would force the SDMPO to merge with the NCTCOG RTC and that all of our
28 congressional members were in full support. Mr. Barnett added that it was supported by the
29 NCTCOG RTC, but they were the only MPO in Texas to support the rule. Mr. Barnett stated
30 that the rule would have created an MPO that stretched from Waco down to San Antonio and an
31 MPO that stretched from Beaumont to south of Houston and that the rule was not in the best
32 interest of the majority of the MPO in the State of Texas.
33

34 **VII. Update on Category 2 Funding Distribution Formula**

35

36 Mr. Barnett stated that he is continuing to track the efforts by TEMPO to place a large emphasis
37 on population for the calculation used for distributing funds. Mr. Barnett stated that there is a
38 consensus to move in this direction, but that there is a minority that is looking at departing from
39 the majority and issuing a separate opinion to the Texas Transportation Commission who will
40 ultimately make the decision. Mr. Barnett stated that he is awaiting the arrival of the consensus
41 report so that he could weigh what is in the best interest of our region.
42

43 Mr. Barnett thanked Mayor Johnson for his question last month regarding changing our
44 boundaries to include all of Grayson County and what impact it would have on our distribution.
45 Mr. Barnett explained that we should get an additional \$600,000 and that he was going to work
46 with TxDOT to insure that they have our boundaries correct.

1
2 **VIII. Freight Mobility Plan**
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4 Mr. Barnett stated that the map that was discussed earlier is included in the agenda packet. It
5 showed a large portion of DNT being on the freight network and did not show US 75. We have
6 brought that the attention of our partners at TEX-21 and they have assured us that US 75 would
7 be included in the final version of the Freight Mobility Plan. Mr. Paramanatham stated that the
8 latest map does show US as being a freight corridor on the Freight Mobility Plan. Judge Magers
9 requested that Mr. Barnett continue to monitor the Texas Transportation Commission agenda to
10 insure that the map is ratified. Mr. Barnett stated that he would continue to track the agendas and
11 that when there was an opportunity to visit with them about US 75 he would discuss it with the
12 Policy Board.

13
14 Judge Magers ask how much funding was involved statewide for freight. Mr. Paramanatham
15 stated that those figures had not been released yet, but that there was a little bit of funding. He
16 also stated that not all of the freight networks would receive funding. This was the reason for the
17 change in the freight network. He indicated that US 75 is now shown on the freight network and
18 that this should make some resources available for US 75. Mr. Barnett stated the importance of
19 completing a Freight Plan for Grayson County. He stated that there are indications that there
20 may be more freight on US 75 than on I-35 and that a Freight Mobility Plan could help us
21 validate this. Mayor Johnson stated that he believes there is a study that validates this
22 information. Judge Magers stated that the study for the Trans-Texas Corridor and the My-35
23 Study both indicate that there is more freight on US 75 than on I-35. Mayor Johnson asked if
24 being on the freight network opens up another funding source and if they were federal funds or
25 state funds. Mr. Paramanatham confirmed that it does allow US 75 to qualify for federal freight
26 network funding. Mr. Johnson asked when the next allocation of the federal freight funds would
27 be. Mr. Paramanatham asked Ms. Maley if she knew the answer to the question. Ms. Maley
28 stated that she did not, but that she would forward a contact to Mr. Barnett who could answer the
29 question. Judge Magers stated that it is important that US 75 be in the queue. He asked Ms.
30 Maley what differentiates freight funding from other categories of funding. Ms. Maley stated
31 that she could not answer that question, but that the contact she would send Mr. Barnett would
32 have the answer. Mr. Paramanatham stated that typically when a project is funded; it is funded
33 with multiple funding sources and could be for a number of uses. Mayor Johnson asked if the
34 freight category could be utilized for our August UTP submission, because if it could be utilized
35 for US 75 it would lower the amount we are requesting from the Commission. Mr. Barnett
36 stated that the UTP was Prop 1 and Prop 7 funds and did not involve federal freight funds. He
37 stated that freight corridor status was one of the items that the Commission took into
38 consideration before allocating funding. Mayor Johnson asked if we could use federal freight
39 funds to offset the request from the Commission. Mr. Paramanatham stated that it would and
40 that any extra funds we could find that would offset the request from the Commission would
41 increase our chances of success.

42
43 **IX. Announcements**
44

45 Judge Magers mentioned that one of the reasons the county hired an engineer for a director was
46 so that the MPO could begin assisting TxDOT with the project management of some of the

1 projects. He asked Mr. Paramanatham to give an update on the status of this. Mr.
2 Paramanaantham stated that TxDOT has been working on preliminary schematic plans for US 75
3 to the Red River. He reminded the Policy Board that an update was given at the February 2,
4 2017 Policy Board meeting. He stated that TxDOT is working with the same consultant to move
5 forward with detailed schematic plans. He stated that the portion from the County line to close
6 to FM 1417 was completed roughly ten years ago and that the current focus is from FM 1417 to
7 Spur 503. The goal would be to complete this section and have it officially approved by FHWA.
8 He stated that the US 75/US 82 interchange and the US 75/Spur 503 interchange would be
9 included in this study. He stated that Mr. Barnett would be working with this consultant and
10 managing the project. Mr. Paramanatham stated that TxDOT would look at the design elements
11 and conduct a 30%, 60% and 100% review, but that Mr. Barnett would be managing the project.
12 He stated that they are working on an agreement between the MPO and TxDOT to allow Mr.
13 Barnett to assist in this manner. Judge Magers stated that utilizing Mr. Barnett in this capacity
14 would expedite these projects. Judge Magers stated that this would place some “shovel ready”
15 projects on the shelf. Mr. Paramanatham stated that this has been a goal of TxDOT’s for some
16 time, but that it has not been possible at current staffing levels. He stated that this is a new
17 avenue we are exploring where TxDOT could augment staff without having to add additional
18 resources.

19
20 The next meeting of the TAC is on March 17, 2017. The next meeting of the Policy Board is on
21 June 7, 2017 with the possibility of some special Policy Board meetings in order to keep the
22 Thoroughfare Plan on schedule. Mr. Barnett requested that the Policy Board check their email
23 for notices and that the general public interested in transportation request to be placed on the
24 distribution list. Mr. Barnett stated that we wanted to work expeditiously in order to keep the
25 Thoroughfare Plan on schedule. Judge Magers asked what the next step was. Mr. Barnett stated
26 that the RFQ was nearly complete and that he was going to forward it to our partners at
27 TxDOT/FHWA. He anticipated receiving comments from them in roughly a week. Once the
28 review was completed, Mr. Barnett would release the RFQ to the consultants. Once we receive
29 SOQs, the TAC would meet and review and rank the SOQs, interview the top ranked consultants
30 and hopefully bring an agenda item with a list of firms before the Policy Board meeting in June.
31 Judge Magers asked if we had met all of our statutory requirements. Mr. Barnett stated that we
32 have met our statutory requirements and that we needed to complete the RFQ process in order to
33 select a consultant and that we should complete that process by June. Judge Magers stated that
34 the Thoroughfare Plan was a critical element for the county. Mr. Barnett stated that he
35 anticipated a nine month design period and that the project should be complete by April 1, 2018.

36
37 **X. Public Comment Period**

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39 No citizens appeared before the Policy Board.

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41 **XI. Adjournment**

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43 Having no further business, Chairman Plyler adjourned the meeting at 8:23 AM.

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45
46

David Plyler, Chairman, SDMPO Policy Board

SHERMAN-DENISON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
POLICY BOARD (PB)
AGENDA ITEM IV
ACTION ITEM

April 26, 2017

Review and Approval of a Resolution Affirming Expansion of the Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary

BACKGROUND:

The Policy Board of the Sherman-Denison Metropolitan Planning Organization (SDMPO) amended the Bylaws of the SDMPO to expand the boundaries of its Metropolitan Planning Area on August 3, 2016. The Bylaws state that the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) shall be defined as covering the area delineated by the Grayson County boundaries.

In order to make the revised boundaries official, TxDOT requires approval of a resolution by the Policy Board in addition to the approval of the Bylaws. Once these items are received, a Minute Order revising the boundaries will be placed on the Texas Transportation Commission agenda. Approval of the Minute Order by the Texas Transportation Commission will make the revised boundaries official.

Revising the boundaries will increase the population within the Sherman-Denison Metropolitan Planning Area. It is estimated that the Sherman-Denison MPO will receive roughly \$6 million in additional funding over a ten year period due to this increase in population utilizing the current distribution formula developed by the Texas Association of MPOs (TEMPO).

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the Resolution Affirming Expansion of the Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary

ATTACHMENTS: *click underlined items for attachment*

- [Resolution No. 2017-04-26](#)

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-04-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE POLICY BOARD OF THE SHERMAN-DENISON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION, AFFIRMING EXPANSION OF THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY; FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS RESOLUTION IS PASSED WAS NOTICED AND IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

WHEREAS, the Sherman-Denison Metropolitan Planning Organization (SDMPO) is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Sherman-Denison Metropolitan Statistical Area by the Governor of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the boundaries of a Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) shall be determined by agreement between the MPO and the Governor; and

WHEREAS, the MPA boundaries, at a minimum, shall encompass the entire existing urbanized area (as defined by the Bureau of the Census), plus the contiguous area expected to become urbanized within a 20-year forecast period for the metropolitan transportation plan, and may encompass the entire metropolitan statistical area or consolidated metropolitan statistical area, as defined by the Bureau of the Census; and

WHEREAS, the SDMPO Policy Board, comprised primarily of local elected officials, is the regional transportation policy body and continues to be the regional forum for cooperative decisions on transportation; and

WHEREAS, the SDMPO Policy Board amended the Bylaws on August 3, 2016 to state that “the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) shall be defined as covering the area delineated by the Grayson County boundaries”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE POLICY BOARD OF THE SHERMAN-DENISON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION, that the Policy Board ratifies the expansion of the Sherman-Denison Metropolitan Planning Area to include the area delineated by the Grayson County boundaries.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this the 26th day of April, 2017.

SHERMAN-DENISON MPO

BY: _____
DAVID PLYLER, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

BY: _____
CLAY BARNETT, P.E., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR