

Sherman – Denison Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 @ 8:30 am
Texas Department of Transportation
3904 US 75, 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 TAC meeting of April 27, 2018](#)
- IV. [Recommend Approval of the Draft 2019 – 2022 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\) to the Policy Board](#)

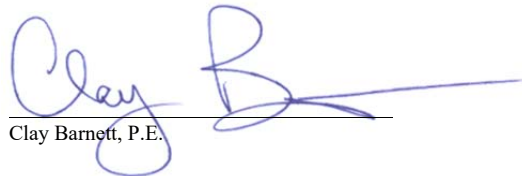
Information/Presentation Items:

- V. [Highway Funding Workshop](#)
- VI. Announcements
(*Informal Announcements, Future Agenda Items, and Next Meeting Date*)
 - MPO Policy Board Next meeting May 25, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.
 - TAC TBA
- VII. Public Comment Period
- VIII. Adjournment

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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 or before May 11, 2018.

NOTE: The TAC 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.

1 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2 SHERMAN-DENISON MPO
3 Conference Room
4 Texas Department of Transportation
5 3904 US 75
6 Sherman, TX 75090
7 April 27, 2018 9:00 a.m.
8

9 **Committee Members Present:**

10 Clay Barnett, P.E., Chairman	Sherman-Denison MPO
11 Clint Philpott, P.E.	City of Sherman
12 Kevin Farley	Small Cities Representative (Pottsboro)
13 Aaron Bloom, P.E.	TxDOT Sherman Area Engineer
14 Bill Benton	Grayson County
15 Steven Doss, AICP	City of Denison

16
17 **Committee Members Absent:**

18 None

19
20 **Non-Voting Members Present:**

21 Josh Walker	Texoma Area Paratransit System (TAPS)
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22
23 **Non-Voting Members Absent:**

24 Barbara Maley	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
25 Nick Page	TxDOT TPP Division

26
27 **Guests Present:**

28 Jeff Whitmire	Grayson County Commissioner, Pct. 1
29 Ken Hughes	Huitt-Zollars, Inc.
30 Mike McAnelly	CoPlan
31 Len McManus, P.E.	McManus & Johnson
32 Lee Lawrence	City of Gunter
33 Ben Munson	Grayson County RMA
34 Jill van Hoewyh	Lamb-Star Engineering

35
36 **I. Call to Order**

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38 Mr. Barnett called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
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40 **II. Acknowledgement of Quorum by Chairman**

41
42 Mr. Barnett declared a quorum of the Technical Advisory Committee present.
43
44

1 **III. Review and Approval of Meeting Notes for February 7, 2018 meeting**

2
3 Motion to approve was made by Mr. Farley, seconded by Mr. Benton. Motion carried
4 unanimously.

5
6 **V. Presentation and Discussion on the Revised Demographic Data for the Grayson**
7 **County Thoroughfare Plan**

8
9 Mr. Barnett gave a brief introduction and history of the progress made to date on the
10 Thoroughfare Plan. He reminded the TAC of the presentation on demographics given at the
11 TAC meeting of February 7, 2018. He stated that the consultants have revised the demographics
12 based on the feedback from the TAC and are presenting the revised demographics. He turned
13 the meeting over to Mr. Ken Hughes, P.E., Mr. Mike McAnelly, Mr. Steve Spillette and Mr. Ty
14 Jacobson to give the presentation, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

15
16 On Slide 10, Mr. Barnett asked if this information was compiled from the information provided
17 from the member communities concerning the number of building permits issued in the previous
18 seven (7) years. Mr. Spillette confirmed that these estimates were compiled from the historical
19 information as well as other information provided from the member communities, such as
20 subdivision plats, maps and proposed development locations.

21
22 There were no questions or comments on the demographics presentation.

23
24 **IV. Review the Draft 2019 – 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and**
25 **recommend to the Policy Board that it be submitted to TxDOT and FHWA/FTA and**
26 **released to the public for review and comment**

27
28 Mr. Barnett gave a brief summary of the 2019-2022 TIP and stated that the action requested
29 today was to recommend to the Policy Board that the draft TIP be released for public comment.
30 Mr. Barnett thanked Mr. Lee Lawrence for his contribution to the plan. He stated that the
31 historical section was taken from the Sherman-Denison Transportation Plan Annual Report
32 1978-79 and that Mr. Lawrence was cited as one of the planners involved in the project. Mr.
33 Benton asked what additional information was included on the plan. Mr. Barnett stated that it
34 included a map of proposed projects, which included US 75. He stated that the only project on
35 the plan yet to be completed was the eastern segment of the FM 1417 loop. Mr. Barnett pointed
36 out that Denison was larger than Sherman in 1890 and that Grayson County was the most
37 populous county in the state in 1880 and second only to Dallas County in 1890.

38
39 Mr. Barnett explained that this version of the TIP is vastly different than previous versions due to
40 the requirements included in the FAST Act. Mr. Barnett mentioned that some of these
41 requirements include Performance Measures, Transit Asset Management Plans, and a host of
42 other requirements that required coordination with TAPS. Mr. Barnett thanked Mr. Josh Walker
43 with TAPS for his contributions to the TIP. Mr. Barnett stated that none of the projects that are
44 being discussed as part of the bond package for the county are included because they are not
45 currently in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Mr. Barnett stated that to add projects
46 to the MTP requires a much more robust public comment period than time constraints would

1 allow at this time. Mr. Barnett stated that we would begin the process of adding these projects to
2 the MTP and TIP next month. Mr. Barnett stated that the only changes to the funding table from
3 the 2017-2020 TIP was to include moving the CAT 2U funding to CAT 1 on the FM 121 project
4 and adding a TASA project for the City of Whitewright, which needed to be added due to the
5 increase in the MPA.

6
7 Mr. Benton asked what was the history of the US 75 project, which is part of the TIP we are
8 taking action on. Mr. Barnett started that when he stated at the MPO and attended his first
9 TEMPO meeting, he picked up on some discussion about MPOs putting together differing
10 sources of funding on large projects and requesting the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC)
11 fund the remaining balance. He stated that the TTC has a large balance of CAT 4 and CAT 12
12 funds and was looking for MPOs to come to them with other sources of funding, such as district
13 funds, MPO funds and local funds, where they could leverage TTC funds for large regional
14 projects. Mr. Barnett stated that upon returning to Grayson County he discussed the matter with
15 Mr. Noel Paramanatham, P.E., who is the Paris District Engineer around December, 2016. He
16 stated that Mr. Paramanatham confirmed this and requested that we meet and devise a strategy
17 to successfully acquire these additional funds for our region. He stated that after studying the
18 matter with Mr. Paramanatham that the only project that would garner the attention of the TTC
19 in Grayson County was US 75. He stated that in February, 2017, the Policy Board approved a
20 Regional List of Projects that included all of US 75 that requested significant funding from the
21 TTC. He stated that after an unsuccessful attempt at getting funds for all of US 75, Mr.
22 Paramanatham discussed the issue with his superiors and that they stated all of US 75 was too
23 costly for the TTC to fund in full and recommended that we focus on the “GAP” section. Mr.
24 Barnett explained that the “GAP” section was the only section of US 75 in Texas that does not
25 meet interstate standards, that it was designed for 45mph and that the short ramps had led to
26 numerous accidents and that it was a safety, mobility and maintenance concern. Mr. Barnett
27 explained that we prepared a white paper on the US 75 project and visited with three (3) of the
28 TTC commissioners and we received feedback from them. We did inform the commissioners
29 that although the GAP project was a great project for TxDOT, it did nothing to address the major
30 concerns of the citizens of this region, which is the US 75/US 82 interchange. Mr. Barnett stated
31 that during these discussions, the US 75 projects were again rejected for funding. Mr. Barnett
32 stated that with the feedback given from the commissioners and including the US 75/US 82
33 project, the TTC approved funding for the project in November, 2017. Mr. Barnett stated that
34 without the assistance of Judge Bill Magers, former Denison Mayor Robert Brady and a lot of
35 help from Rep. Larry Phillips, the project would not have been approved. Mr. Benton asked
36 about the funding. Mr. Barnett stated that the project was roughly \$162 million total with \$12.75
37 million in local funds, \$27.1 million in CAT 2U funds and the remainder is TxDOT funds. Mr.
38 Benton asked where the \$12.75 million in local funds is coming from. Mr. Barnett stated that
39 there has been a lot of discussion at the Grayson County Commissioners Court on how to fund
40 the local match. Mr. Benton stated that the local funds have not been committed. Mr. Barnett
41 confirmed that the local funds have not been committed. Mr. Benton asked what happens if the
42 local funds do not show up. Mr. Barnett stated that the US 75 project would go away and that
43 we would lose \$162 million of funding for our region. Commissioner Whitmire stated that we
44 would not lose \$162 million, but the difference between the \$162 million and the CAT 2U funds
45 and local match. Mr. Barnett confirmed this was correct and stated that the difference was
46 roughly \$122 million. Mr. Benton stated that we removed projects in order to obtain the funds

1 needed for the US 75 project. Mr. Barnett stated that we did not remove or even delay projects
2 in the TIP or the MTP because Proposition 7 was passed after the last MTP and that this
3 additional revenue stream was utilized for this additional funding. Mr. Barnett stated that the
4 only project that was in the previous versions of the TIP and MTP was FM 1417 from Taylor to
5 US 82. Mr. Benton stated that the projects in the MTP were scattered or pushed back in order to
6 make room for the US 75 projects. Mr. Barnett stated that this was not correct. Mr. Benton
7 stated that that was not a problem that he was just trying to understand the process. Mr. Barnett
8 stated that what happened during the process is that Proposition 7 was passed and we got new
9 buckets of funds that we did not have before. He stated that when US 75 was added, it was just
10 added to the other MTP projects in each 5 year increment. Mr. Benton asked that instead of
11 moving projects up, we used the additional funds for US 75. Mr. Barnett confirmed that the
12 additional funds were used for US 75, so nothing got pushed back or delayed or moved to
13 accommodate US 75. Mr. Benton asked if the US 75 project was picked because TxDOT liked
14 the project because US 75 would be upgraded to interstate standards. Mr. Barnett stated that
15 reconstructing US 75 to interstate standards was desired, but that there were other considerations
16 as well. He mentioned that there were are a lot of safety issues along US 75 due to the short
17 ramps, that the roadway is designed for 45 mph, that the highway is continuously flooded, that
18 there are a lot of maintenance issues. Mr. Benton asked if there had to be another bucket of
19 money created for the \$13million. Mr. Barnett stated yes and that it needed to be local funds.
20 Commissioner Whitmire asked if the plan that was created three (3) years ago that did not have
21 US 75 in it, were all of the projects still in the plan. Mr. Barnett stated that the MTP still
22 included all of the projects that were included in it prior to US 75. Mr. Barnett stated that
23 receiving additional funding for US 75 may be an uphill battle. He stated that Mr.
24 Paramanathan is continuing to look for other opportunities to fund US 75. He stated that Mr.
25 Paramanathan applied for the TIGER Grant last year and that he is applying for the BUILD
26 Grant this year. Commissioner Whitmire asked what the plan was five (5) years from now. Mr
27 Barnett stated that the MTP was updated every five (5) years and that it was due to be updated
28 next year and that we would begin work on it later this year. Mr. Benton asked how the \$13
29 million creates new dollars. Mr. Barnett stated that there was a lot of discussion at the
30 commissioners court about how to fund the \$13 million. Mr. Benton stated that \$13 million
31 needs to go to the US 75 project and asked if there are other projects that are going to be funded
32 then more than \$13 million needs to be committed. Mr. Barnett verified this. Mr. Benton asked
33 if \$13 million is needed to make the US 75 project viable. Mr. Barnett stated that this is correct.

34
35 Mr. Bloom asked is there are any other TxDOT projects that need to be included in this list and
36 asked if he needed everything on the district's list in the TIP. Mr. Barnett stated that only
37 regionally significant projects are required to be included and that grouped projects could be
38 excluded. He stated that maintenance and safety are in the grouped category along with a
39 number of other types of projects. He stated that the list of group projects was included in the
40 appendix of the document. Commissioner Whitmire asked if this project was going out for
41 public comment, should there be notation of what other projects should be happening. Mr.
42 Barnett stated that the TIP does go into detail about grouped projects and that they do not need to
43 be included in the TIP. Commissioner Whitmire asked what if the public asked why isn't this
44 being done and should the document not include a brief description of what other TxDOT
45 projects are taking place. Mr. Bloom stated that this is handled through the TxDOT STIP
46 meeting which is held in Paris every two years and that they have a public meeting similar to

1 what the MPO does where they accept public comment. He stated that all of the projects are
2 displayed with descriptions at that meeting. Mr. Bloom stated that he just wanted to verify with
3 Mr. Barnett that these projects did not need to be included in the TIP. Mr. Barnett stated that
4 they have two separate funding sources and are required to go through two separate processes.
5 Commissioner Whitmire stated that he would like to see this list to see what projects TxDOT is
6 undertaking. Mr. Bloom stated that he would send him what they are planning.

7
8 Mr. Benton stated that some of these projects were well underway and asked why we had to go
9 back out for public comment. Mr. Barnett stated the federal regulations state that we must adopt
10 a new TIP every two (2) years. He further stated that the last two years of the previous TIP are
11 usually transferred to the new TIP. Mr. Barnett stated that if a citizen speaks out about a project
12 that has already been approved, the typical response is that the concerns will be noted in the
13 public record, but that the project has been approved in the past. He stated that one of the
14 purposes of the TIP is to have public comment on the new projects included in the TIP and that
15 this TIP did not include any new projects.

16
17 Motion to recommend to the Policy Board that it be submitted to TxDOT and FHWA/FTA and
18 released to the public for review and comment was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr.
19 Farley. Motion carried unanimously.

20
21 **VI. Announcements**

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23 Mr. Barnett stated that the next meeting of the Policy Board is on May 2, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. and
24 that releasing the TIP for public comment would be on the agenda. He stated that the next
25 meeting of the TAC will be May 16, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. where recommending approval of the TIP
26 to Policy Board will be on the agenda. He stated that the SDMPO will be hosting its first Freight
27 Advisory Committee meeting on May 16, 2018 as well.

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29 **VII. Public Comment Period**

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31 No citizens appeared before the Technical Advisory Committee.

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33 **VIII. Adjournment**

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35 Having no further business, Mr. Barnett adjourned the meeting at 9:54 am.

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Clay Barnett, P.E., Chairman, SDMPO Technical Advisory Committee