

***Bryan/College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization
MPO Policy Board Meeting Minutes***

July 6, 2020

Certification of Quorum:

Voting members present were Commissioner Nancy Berry, Chair, Brazos County; Mayor Karl Mooney, Vice Chair, City of College Station; Councilmember Brent Hairston, Member, City of Bryan; Dr. Bill Stockton, Member, Texas A&M Transportation Institute; and Mr. Lance Simmons, Member, TxDOT Bryan District. MPO staff members who participated included Dan Rudge, Bart Benthul, and Lisa Lyon. Additional participants included Prarthana Banerji, Matt Dawson-Mathur, Paul Kaspar, Doug Marino, Curtis Morgan, John Nichols, Troy Rother, and Jason Schubert.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Commissioner Berry called to order a special meeting of the MPO Policy Board at 10:03 a.m. on July 6, 2020. Because of constraints due to COVID-19, the meeting was held via Zoom. The meeting opened with the invocation given by Mr. Dan Rudge followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

2. Public Comments regarding items not on the Agenda

No public comments were received.

3. Review and approval of April 22, 2020, Policy Board Minutes

Minutes from the April 22, 2020, Policy Board Meeting were considered for adoption. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mayor Mooney. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hairston. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

4. Staff Report

Regional Access Management Standards – The Technical Advisory Committee is currently working on development of regional management access standards for Brazos County. These standards regulate things like driveways spacing, distance that driveways can be from a corner, distances that certain access points to a piece of property need to be from a traffic signal, etc. In 1985, Mr. Rudge developed a document for the State of Florida called Land Development Regulations that Support Access Management which is being used as a template. Bill Eisele and Bill Frawley with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute wrote a somewhat similar document for the State of Texas back in 2005. Mr. Rudge is trying to coordinate efforts with Mr. Eisele and Mr. Frawley because they are currently working with TxDOT Bryan District to create a guide in which City Council Members, Commissioners, and developers can better understand access management and why it's important in

maintaining the efficiency and safety of a roadway. As an MPO working on access management standards, free technical support is available from TTI through a contract with TxDOT Transportation Planning & Programming in Austin.

Congestion Management Process (CMP) – Since it was anticipated the MPO would reach Transportation Management Area (TMA) status after this census, the CMP process was started and there is a draft of the final CMP. Mr. Rudge has not moved it forward at this point because a CMP is not needed until the MPO area has surpassed the 200,000 population mark and become a TMA. Having a Congestion Management Process in place makes it more difficult to advance projects, so Mr. Rudge recommended that the MPO not move forward with adopting the CMP until the MPO’s status changes to a TMA.

2020 Census Update – Brazos County’s response rate is behind the State of Texas and the nation. In particular areas of Bryan that have significant minority populations, the response rates are lower than 30%-40%. In College Station, as expected, there are areas of significant student populations where the response rate is very low. Mr. Rudge has been working with both cities, that each have their own Complete Count Committees, to target specific census tracks for outreach and other activities. Currently, they are seeking approval from the Library Advisory Board to put up posters and other census material in both libraries.

Activities of the Regional Mobility Authority – The Regional Mobility Authority has had two meetings and is currently in the process of developing a Strategic Plan that must be filed by October 1. There is a Strategic Plan subcommittee led by Alan Munger that includes Commissioner Steve Aldrich, Mr. Rudge, Tim Lomax, Paul Kaspar, Doug Marino and Troy Rother. The subcommittee has developed the introduction, goals, objectives, and strengths and weaknesses. Goals and objectives will hopefully be finalized later this week. Katie Turnbull and a group of TTI staff are helping the RMA develop a website and permanent logo for the RMA. There is a meeting scheduled for July 21st to take a look at the first iteration of the website and logo.

5. FY 2021 – FY 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The Technical Advisory Committee reviewed and approved the FY 2021-FY2024 TIP at their last meeting. The TIP is based on projects that were selected for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The MPO has control over Category Two funds and any project that the MPO selects that utilizes Category Two funds goes under a heading called “Highway Projects”. Brazos Transit District provides information for the transit projects. Projects authorized by the MPO where TxDOT takes the lead are shown as “Grouped Projects”. There are a few things that need to be addressed in the motion to adopt before the document is submitted to TxDOT. First, on page ten of the TIP, the heading in the last column needs to be updated from 19-22 to 21-24. The second change appears on page 34 in the summary table for Grouped Projects and should be changed from 2019-2022 to 2021-2024.

All transit projects from FY 2021 – FY 2024 are using the federal funding category of 5307. The regular budget categories are Operating Assistance, ADA Paratransit, and Preventive

Maintenance. Dr. Stockton noticed there was a significantly larger amount of funding for transit projects in 2021 than in 2022-2024. The reason there is a higher amount of funding in 2021 is because there is an additional budget category called Debt Service in which Brazos Transit District (BTD) is using past years' funds apportioned from 2015, 2017, and 2018 and spending them in FY 2021. On the final page of the Transit Projects, it appears there is a large difference in the amount of money; however, it is related to the Debt Service. The 5307 funding is \$12 million in 2021 and goes up every year after that. BTD is beginning to purchase bus shelters at their busiest locations and have budgeted \$250,000 a year which is approximately ten shelters per year. Once the pandemic passes, they are moving to a fixed stop operation.

The final category is Grouped Projects which are selected by TxDOT and approved with the adoption of the TIP.

Commissioner Berry made the motion to adopt the FY 2021 – FY 2024 Transportation Improvement Program, with the corrections previously stated on pages 10 and 34. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mooney. There was no further discussion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

6. I-14 Support Letters to Senator Cornyn and Senator Cruz

The MPO received a request from the I-14 Strategic Highway Coalition that we send letters of support for congressional action to designate I-14 in the new transportation authorization bill. Mr. Babin of Texas presented language that specifies the general routing of I-14 and also specifies in particular that there be a loop around Bryan/College Station to be designated as I-214. Letters of support were received by the House from all of the State DOT's and the amendment was approved. This amendment will now go to the Senate and the effort to incorporate the language in the Senate bill is being led by Senator Cassidy of Louisiana. Support letters were drafted for approval by the Policy Board. There is an attachment that goes with the letter which is the resolution that was adopted by the Policy Board in 2019 conveying support of I-14 and its potential alignment in Bryan/College Station. Because of the short timeline for this, the TAC did not get an opportunity to review the letters. Councilmember Hairston made the motion to send these letters of support to Senators Cornyn and Cruz. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mooney. There was no further discussion. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

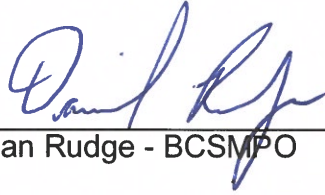
7. Adjourn

The Policy Board meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

ATTEST:



MPO Policy Board Chair or Vice-Chair
Bryan-College Station
Metropolitan Planning Organization



Dan Rudge - BCSMPO

9-2-20

Date