

**CROSS PLAINS RURAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
MINUTES
July 18, 2013
Thursday, 9:30 a.m.
Nortex Regional Planning Commission Conference Room
4309 Jacksboro Highway - Wichita Falls, Texas 76302**

Voting Members

Gary Beesinger, Archer County Judge, CPRTC Chairman
Linda Rogers, Baylor County Judge
Kenneth Liggett, Clay County Judge
Woody Gossom, Jr., Wichita County Judge
Greg Tyra – Wilbarger County Judge
Al Smith, Proxy for Cooke County
Jim Henson – Mayor, Lakeside City
Howard Raeke, Mayor, City of Henrietta
Mitch Grant, Proxy for Mayor Jeff Bearden, City of Vernon
Ricky Tow, Proxy for, Mayor Gene Brown, City of Bowie
Ron Sellman – Proxy for, Mayor Jim Goldsworthy, City of Gainesville
Vanessa Price, Proxy for Mayor Frances West, City of Callisburg
Danny Addison, Proxy for Mayor Allen Moore, City of Holliday
Toby Hines, Mayor, City of Seymour
James Yohe, Proxy for Mayor Robert Fenoglio, City of Nocona
Joe Singer, Proxy for Mayor Dan Fears, City of Iowa Park
Lin Barnett, Proxy for Mayor Glenn Barham, City of Wichita Falls

Other Participants

Jennifer Foster, for Senator Robert Duncan
Jennifer Smith, for Senator Craig Estes
Jennifer Vogel, for State Representative Drew Springer
Rhonda Poirot, for Representative James Frank
Leon Klement, Cooke County
John Studer, City of Seymour
Bob Langford, Montague County
James Gamblin, Montague County
Rick Langford, City of Henrietta
Chester Nolen, Interim City Manager, City of Burkburnett
Janis Crawley, Bowie EDC
Jaimie Lee, Wichita Falls MPO
Tim Shatto, Texas Veterans Commission

TxDOT Staff

Larry D. Tegtmeyer, P.E., District Engineer
Danny Brown, P.E., TP&D Director
Mike Beaver, P.E., Design Engineer
Carole Mayo, WFS Administration
Tim Hertel, P.E., Director of Operations
T.J. Herrell, P.E., Traffic Engineer
Adele Lewis, Public Information Officer
Ben Coker, Design, Graphics
Mike Hallum, P.E., Gainesville Area Engineer
David Rohmer, P.E., Wichita Falls Area Engineer
Tammy Marlow, TxDOT – Contracts
Dwayne Groves, TxDOT - Bridge Coordinator

The Cross Plains Rural Transportation Council (CPRTC) met at the Nortex Regional Planning Commission Conference Room on July 18, 2013. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

1. **Welcome & Opening Remarks** – Judge Gary Beesinger, Chairman welcomed everyone to the Quarterly CPRTC Meeting.
2. **Self Introductions** – Introductions were made around the room.
3. **Public Comments**
There were no public comments.
4. **Approval of CPRTC minutes from April 18, 2013** – A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes and the motion carried.
5. **Topics**
 - **Legislative and Congressional Reports/Updates**
 - **Jennifer Foster – Senator Robert Duncan’s Office and Jennifer Smith – Senator Craig Estes’ Office**

The Legislature failed to pass the Transportation Bill during the Regular Session and the first Special Session.

Senate Bill 1747 passed both houses – The law allows counties to create Energy Reinvestment Zones. Those counties meeting certain criteria may submit applications to receive the Grant Funds.

Special Session I

SJR1 (Constitutional Amendment): Passed in the Senate but did not pass in the House. On the last day of the session the funding bill, that puts forth a Constitutional Amendment (to be voted on yes/no by voters), died due to the filibuster on the Abortion Bill.

Special Session II

There has not been a consensus between the Senate and the House on how to fund Transportation.

The Senate passed SJR1

A Constitution Amendment: Voters are to vote Yes/No to take \$900 Million per year of the Rainy Day Fund:

It divides Oil & Gas Revenue between the General Fund 6 and The Rainy Day Fund
It provides approximately \$900 Million to Transportation – Beginning November 2014.
\$2.5 Billion for Water
About \$900 Million for Public Education

The Senate legislation sets a minimum amount of \$4 billion for the state Rainy Day Fund, stipulating that TxDOT’s annual allocations would be reduced or eliminated to maintain that floor. A majority of House members, say they don’t want a rainy day floor included in the state constitution.

House Joint Resolution II

HJR II, a proposed constitutional amendment that would end the diversion of a quarter of the state’s 20-cents-a-gallon gas tax to public education. TxDOT would receive an additional \$820 million each year for the next few years.

The proposed Constitutional Amendment, which would go before voters in November if it is passed by the House and the Senate. It would require that public education receives an amount equal to a quarter of the oil and gas taxes, dollars that would have gone into the state's rainy day fund this all to begin FY15. The House meets at 2:00 this afternoon; the bill will probably not pass today. If a bill is not passed, the Governor will probably call for Special Session 3.

TxDOT states \$4Billion is needed to fund congestion and maintenance. Senator Estes knows Transportation Funding is vital to population growth and prosperity.

A handout was provided the CPRTC members indicating the differences in the Senate and House Resolutions.

Larry Tegtmeyer stated the Legislature passed the "Move Over" law, a great piece of legislation that requires motorists to move over a lane if emergency or TxDOT vehicles and crews are working in a lane or on the side of the road. TxDOT thanks the legislators for the new law. TxDOT is putting together a media and billboards program to ensure the public is informed of this new law.

The Environmental bill that passed is important; it states we (TxDOT) can complete our own environmental documents which will allow the project to progress more time efficiently.

SB 1747 bill passed that deals with funding repair for county Roads and bridges due to damage caused to rural infrastructure by the Oil and Gas Industry. The bill establishes a new revenue delivery method. A temporary office is being formed within the TxDOT Legislative Affairs Office to implement SB 1747. Funds will be distributed to counties by way of awarded Grants. TxDOT is required to develop the rules for the Grant Funding process. TTI has been selected to create a guide book on how counties will submit applications for the grant funds.

Almost all counties qualify to submit an application. We do not know the rules or the criteria at this time.

As our District receives information on procedures for the grant funding process, we along with the new, temporary office will assist counties with the process and keep you up-to-date.

➤ **Jennifer Vogel – Representative Drew Springer's Office**

Representative Springer believes it is very important that we get as many dollars here in rural areas as we can.

➤ **Rhonda Poirot – Representative James Frank's Office**

Our office publishes a regular newsletter that can keep you informed. If you are not on the list and wish to receive the letter, let me know and I will ensure you are included on the list and receive the newsletter.

Adele Lewis stated the TxDOT Transportation Commission will review and approve the rules concerning SB 1747. Upon approval, the rules will be posted at the following link:
www.RoadsforTexasEnergy.com

TxDOT should begin accepting applications in early 2014.

• **Funding Update – Danny Brown**

A handout was provided indicating TxDOT's Funding for the next four years and an idea of our funding right now. We are in the process of drafting the Unified Transportation Plan (UTP).

The green and dark blue data is our Preventive Maintenance funding. Rehab and Maintenance is green. District Discretionary Funding is indicated in blue (a minimum of \$2.5 Million each year is allocated to districts).

The light green funds are funds distributed at the State level. There is not a lot of money for bridges. Overall, there is a continuous decrease in funds.

The UTP is a 10 year plan that also includes Transit and Aviation. The UTP is posted at our www.TxDOT.Gov website.

- **Bridges Presentation – Mike Beaver**

Mike discussed a PowerPoint presentation.

Texas bridges Sufficiency Ratings:

Structurally Deficient – a bridge is considered structurally deficient if significant load carrying elements such as the deck, beams, or columns are damaged or have deteriorated to a point that the bridge is not able to carry the as-built/design loads.

Functionally Obsolete – a bridge is functionally obsolete when the bridge no longer meets current design standards; most commonly the bridge is narrow or has low vertical clearance.

Sufficiency Rating – “Score” of the bridge from 0 to 100.

Used to determine eligibility for federal funding

Uses to set priorities

Funding of Bridge Projects:

- 80% Federal \$'s, 10% TxDOT Funds, 10% Local Funds
- Most commonly, locals use Equivalent Match Projects (EMPs)
- An EMP is work on other cross-drainage structures equal to the local's 10% match.
 - Rehabilitation of an existing structure
 - Channel work at an existing structure
 - Replacing or constructing a new cross-drainage structure

Documentation of equal match is critical. You have to have “before” and “after” pictures and documentation of costs in order to apply for project repair funds.

Please contact local TxDOT Bridge Staff.

Michael Beaver – (940)720-7752 or

Dwayne Groves- (940)720-7753

A map of bridges and their ratings can be reviewed at:

Transportation for America <http://t4america.org/resources/bridges/>

“The Fix We’re in : The State of Our Nation’s Bridges”

The site lets you know when the bridge was built and its rating:

0 = failed

9 = as it was built

4 or below = poor condition

80,000 lbs. or 40 tons = Legal Load

We design bridges to carry approximately 60 tons

When a bridge deteriorates to the point it cannot carry 60 tons, it is rated structurally deficient.

Your project has to be across a public road or City street.

- **Texas Freight Mobility Plan – Danny Brown**

TxDOT will make a VTC Presentation August 27, 2013 at 9:00 A.M.

You are invited to watch the presentation at our District Office located at 1601 Southwest Parkway, Wichita Falls, Texas 76302.

- **Area Engineers' Project Reports – Mike Hallum, David Rohmer and Allan Moore**

Each Area Engineer or a representative for that area provided an update on the projects in their area. Handouts in the form of maps and a project list were provided.

We have worked to get US 277 from a 2-lane to 4-lane across our District. The job that lets in August gets 7 miles of the last 13 mile section completed.

6. Other Business

The October 17, 2013 meeting is our Project Priority Selection meeting. Please submit your proposed projects to Carole Mayo, Danny Brown or Mike Beaver by September 15, 2013 so we can assist you with assembling project data for your presentation of your proposed project to the Council.

7. Next Meeting Date - Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.

We will notify you of the correct time in the letter of invitation sent prior to each meeting.

8. Topics for Next Meeting

- Project Presentations
- Project Prioritization

9. Adjourned at 11:11 am