

**CROSS PLAINS RURAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
April 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  
John Bullock – Young County Judge  
Al Smith, Proxy for Cooke County  
Jeff Bearden – Mayor, City of Vernon  
James Cantwell – Proxy for, Mayor Pat Polk, City of Bowie  
John Studer, Proxy for, Mayor Ronald Reeves, City of Seymour  
James Yohe, Proxy for Mayor Robert Fenoglio, City of Nocona  
Joe Singer, Proxy for Mayor Dan Fears, City of Iowa Park  
Larry Pannell, Proxy for Mayor Curtis Warner of Electra  
Tim James, Proxy for Mayor Carl Law, City of Burkburnett  
David Casteel, Proxy for Mayor Barry White, City of Graham

**Other Participants**

Joe Gambill, Nortex Regional Planning Commission  
Michael Lytle, for Congressman Mac Thornberry  
Jennifer Foster, for Senator Robert Duncan  
Jennifer Smith, for Senator Estes  
Jennifer Vogel, for State Representative Drew Springer  
Rick Langford, City of Henrietta  
Ricky Tow, City of Bowie  
Sam Bounds, City of Lakeside City  
Tim James, City of Burkburnett  
Rita Smith, Cooke County  
Mike Scott, Henrietta  
Donald Arbeau, Wichita Falls MPO  
Jaimie Lee, Wichita Falls MPO

**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  
Allan Moore, P.E., Director of Construction  
Tim Hertel, P.E., Director of Operations  
Adele Lewis, Public Information Officer  
Ben Coker, Public Information Officer  
Aaron Bloom, P.E., Graham Engineering  
David Rohmer, P.E., Wichita Falls Area Engineer  
Tammy Marlow, TxDOT - Contracts

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The Cross Plains Rural Transportation Council (CPRTC) met at the Nortex Regional Planning Commission Conference Room on April 19, 2013. Meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

**a) 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**

James Cantwell introduced Ricky Tow, Bowie City Manager, to the Council.

Judge Liggett invited everyone to attend the Retirement Celebration honoring James Cantwell for his many years of service with the City of Bowie, this Sunday from 2:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M.

James Yohe with the City of Nocona invites everyone to attend their first, National Car Auction this Friday and Saturday, April 19 and April 20, 2013.

**4. Approval of CPRTC minutes from January 17, 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**

Transportation funding is a priority for Senator Duncan.

**SB 1:** Is the only Bill that has passed both houses concerning Transportation so far and is expected to go before the Conference Committee. Committee members are expected to be appointed this week.

**SJR1 (Constitutional Amendment):** Passed last week and is supported by Governor Perry  
Voters are to vote Yes/No to take \$6 Billion of the Rainy Day Fund to allocate:  
\$2.5 Billion for Transportation  
\$2.5 Billion for Water

TxDOT Executive Director – Phil Wilson states \$4 Billion is needed to meet transportation needs each year. Transportation Bonds run out 2015.

In many of the proposed bills, Vehicle Registration Fees are newly determined to be a Transportation Revenue Source that should not be diverted to other programs.

There are 39 Senate Bills that concern Transportation.

Senator Williams sponsors a bill that increases registration fees and raises \$210 million in new revenue.

**SB 287:** Senator Nichols sponsors the bill that dedicates future vehicle sales tax for motor vehicles to transportation. This bill is still in committee.

**SJR 47 (Constitutional Amendment):** Sponsored by Senator Eltife, would raise the state sales tax ½ cent and be dedicated to transportation and saves \$6 Billion in Debt Service. This bill is still in committee.

There are bills that deal with funding repair for County Roads and Bridges due to the damage caused to rural infrastructure by the Oil and Gas Industry.

**SB 1747:** Sponsored by Senator Uresti, passed the Senate Monday, April 15. The bill establishes a new revenue delivery method based on:

- 60% Wells completion
- 20% Over weight Permits
- 20% Based on Production

**SB 65:** Develops a Transportation Infrastructure Fund, with funds from the Rainy Day Fund and receives funds each year from the Rainy Day fund as the Rainy Day Funds exceeds a certain amount. This bill is still in committee.

There are several bills that would eliminate diversions from the Transportation Fund. None of these bills have passed the Senate.

➤ **Jennifer Vogel – State Representative Drew Springer’s Office**

Representatives Springer and Frank are “No” votes for **HB 63:** the cell and texting bill. We just received notice that the “Move Over” bill will probably pass out of the House today.

➤ **Adele Lewis TxDOT PIO – for State Representative James Frank**

Representative Frank plans to improve Transportation Funding mechanisms.

**HB 479:** The Harper-Brown bill, restores the Transportation Department’s historical funding “Pay-As-You-Go”

**HB 1964:** Harper-Brown, improves efficiency of the Environmental Process for transportation projects, expediting projects through the process.

**HB 2492:** Representative Frank bill ensuring transportation revenue stays in transportation. It eliminates diversions of transportation funds to the school fund.

Representative Frank is a “No” vote for **HB 63**, the cell and texting bill, creates an offense of use of hand held devices while driving. He states we already have a law that enforces that.

**HB 2932: concerning self-driving vehicles**, is not likely to get a hearing. It gives Google a monopoly on technology in driverless vehicles.

**HB 2050:** Representative Frank bill stating property taken through eminent domain must be used for its intended purpose.

**HB 20:** a Representative Kolkhorst bill states when there is land taken through eminent domain, the previous owner has the option to buy back the land taken if there is no progress toward its intended use within 10 years of its taking. The entity must prove progress has been and is being made.

**HB 4:** SWIFT, creates an infrastructure bank used to issue bonds for water improvements and conservation and forms a 7 person Commission and the bill provides an outline for the plan.

**HB 11:** Creates the funding structure for the Water Infrastructure Bank.

➤ **Mike Lytle – for Congressman Mac Thornberry**

March 6, 2013, the House passed a bill funding all agencies through the end of 2013 at FY12 levels.

**HR 933: FY 2014 Transportation Funding Budget**

House Bill: \$87 Billion

Senate Bill: \$88 Billion

White House Proposes: \$141 Billion

• **Legislative Funding update – Larry Tegtmeier**

The “Move Over” bill is progressing. This law requires vehicles to move over a lane if emergency or TxDOT vehicles and crews are working in a lane.

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

The orange ribbon we are wearing today notes National Work Zone Awareness Week and asks that drivers slow down, drive safely and courteously in work zones for the safety of everyone.

Also, the biggest cause of accidents is distracted driving. Watch for signs and workers.

• **Prop 12 Projects Update – Danny Brown**

**4 projects were let last year:**

US 277 – Baylor County

FM 422 – Seymour

FM 3207 – Wilbarger County

**2 projects should be let in May 2013:**

US 82 – Super 2 Project

SH 79 at Professional in Wichita Falls

For several years we have been converting US 277 from a 2-lane to a 4-lane; we recently received funding for 7 of the 12 mile section from Holiday to Dundee and it will let in August. We plan to receive the funding for the remaining 5 miles for completion later this year.

• **75mph Signing update – Tim Hertel**

During the last legislative session a bill passed authorizing TxDOT to increase roadways with 70mph speed limit to 75mph. Studies had to be completed and if warranted, the limits can be changed to 75mph.

We completed changes for the Interstate highways (I-44 and I-35) for our District.

The next stage is US and State Highways. We have completed the studies for the roadways in our District, but the State-wide contractor, installing the new speed signs, is still busy in other Districts so we have begun to change out signs utilizing our District forces.

The FM roads are the last phase. The studies are complete for these and are awaiting TxDOT Commission approval.

There is a process for which an increased speed may be lowered if the increased speed is creating issues. We ask that we give it a little time and if there are still issues, there is a process to get that changed.

- **Rewording of Seymour Signs as requested by Baylor County Judge Rogers – Tim Hertel**  
Upon notification from Judge Rogers that there was some confusion concerning wording of passing signs in Seymour, we changed the wording and the signs have been installed. We hope this corrected any confusion drivers were experiencing with the signs.
- **Area Engineers' Project Reports – David Rohmer, Allan Moore, Aaron Bloom**  
Each Area Engineer or a representative of that area provided an update on the projects in their area.

**6. Other Business**

There was no Other Business.

- 7. Next Meeting Date** - Thursday, July 18, 2013. The time may be changed back to 10:00 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**

- Legislative updates

**9. Adjourned** at 10:22 am