



Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, October 4, 2005
Room 2.120, Joe C. Thompson Center
University of Texas Campus
Dean Keeton (26th Street) and Red River Streets
Austin, Texas
10:00 a.m.

Abilene MPO
Amarillo MPO
Brownsville MPO
Bryan-College Station MPO
Capital Area MPO
Central Texas Council of Governments
Corpus Christi MPO
El Paso MPO
Harlingen-San Benito MPO
Houston-Galveston Area Council
Laredo Urban Transportation Study
Longview MPO
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Lubbock MPO
North Central Texas Council of Governments
Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission
San Angelo MPO
San Antonio-Bexar County MPO
Sherman-Denison MPO
S. East Texas Regional Planning Commission
Texarkana MPO
Tyler MPO
Victoria MPO
Waco MPO
Wichita Falls MPO

1. Welcome and introductions (15 minutes*)
2. Approval of minutes from July 19, 2005 meeting (5 minutes*)
3. Election of members of the Executive Committee (the terms of E'Lisa Smetana, Chris Evilia and Sam Woods expire in October) (15 minutes*)
4. Discussion of funding formula allocation including paying dues to the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (60 minutes*)
5. Consider recommending a funding formula to FHWA, FTA and TxDOT including paying dues to the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (15 minutes*)
6. Discussion of status of planning contract (15 minutes*)
7. Other business

* Minutes are approximates and have been provided to assist attendees in scheduling travel plans.

TO: TEMPO Members
FROM: Michael R. Aulick, Executive Director
DATE: September 30, 2005
SUBJECT: TEMPO Meeting on October 4, 2005 – Agenda Background Information

Attached is the agenda for the upcoming meeting in Austin. The following is information about the agenda items.

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Approval of minutes from July 19, 2005 meeting. Approval of the minutes is recommended.
3. Executive Committee Member Election. Three Executive Committee member terms are up for election as of September 30, 2005. They are **Sam Woods (TMA slot) and E'Lisa Smetana and Chris Evilia (non-TMA slots)**. The full Executive Committee membership and terms are shown on the attached sheet.
4. Discussion of funding formula allocation including paying dues to the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Attached are two sheets: **TEMPO Executive Committee Recommendation for the Distribution of PL and FTA Funds for FYs 2006 – 2009 by annual average** (Attachment 1) and **Fiscal Year Breakout of Executive Committee Recommendation, FYs 2006 - 2009** (Attachment 2).

The Executive Committee has, after looking at several scenarios, recommended the following to the full TEMPO membership. The vote was 6-0 with one abstention:

- a. Subtract statewide AMPO dues (approximately \$60,000 annually) and TEMPO administrative funds (\$10,000 annually) prior to distribution of funds to the MPOs;
- b. Use the existing FTA and PL funding formulas -- with the addition of a \$200,000 set aside for areas with Early Action Compacts (proposed to be distributed with a minimum of \$25,000 to each of the four areas and the remaining \$100,000 distributed by percent of population in the four areas) in the PL distribution;
- c. For the areas that do not reach \$180,000, seek to use GTPF dollars to bring those areas to \$180,000; and
- d. The \$180,000 goal for the MPOs reflects all federal transportation planning funds to the area (regardless of source).

Sam Woods (September 29 email) and Andrew Canon (September 28 email) have forwarded alternative scenarios to the TEMPO membership under separate cover.

5. Consider recommending a funding formula to FHWA, FTA and TxDOT including paying dues to the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. TEMPO will be asked to recommend a funding formula to FHWA, FTA and TxDOT.
6. Discussion of status of planning contract. TEMPO and meeting attendees will discuss the status of the TAC proposed rules and the planning contract.
7. Other business. Items may be brought up that weren't covered elsewhere on the agenda.



Meeting Minutes

10:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 19, 2005
North Central Texas Council of Governments
616 Six Flags Drive, Transportation Board Room
Arlington, Texas

MPO Representatives

Ben Finley	Abilene MPO
Harold McDaniel	Amarillo MPO
Bob Dickenson	Beaumont – Port Arthur MPO
Linda LaSut	Bryan-College Station MPO
Michael Aulick	Capital Area MPO
Tom Niskala	Corpus Christi MPO
Roy Gilyard	El Paso MPO
Ashby Johnson	Houston - Galveston Area Council of Governments
Sam Woods	Lubbock MPO
Dan Kessler	North Central Texas Council of Governments
E'Lisa Smetana	San Angelo MPO
Joanna Walsh	San Antonio – Bexar County MPO
Bob Wood	Sherman – Denison MPO
Brad McCaleb	Texarkana MPO
Stephanie Rollings	Tyler MPO
Ray Miller	Victoria
Christopher Evilia	Waco MPO
Lin Barnett	Wichita Falls MPO

Other Attendees

Maureen McCoy Daniel	Capital Area MPO
Ricardo Dominguez	El Paso MPO
Jerry Bobo	Houston - Galveston Area Council of Governments
Heather Nick	Tyler MPO
Sid Martinez	San Antonio – Bexar County MPO
Wally Johnson	Sherman – Denison MPO
Ed Kabobel	TxDOT
Bill Knowles	TxDOT
Darcie Schipull	TxDOT – Austin
David Miller	TxDOT - Amarillo
Mark Young	TxDOT – Dallas/Fort Worth

Carol Nixon	TxDOT - Houston
Karen Dunlap	TxDOT - TPP
Tim Juarez	TxDOT - TPP
Diane Lann	TxDOT - TPP
Jose Campos	FHWA
Mike Leary	FHWA
Barbara Maley	FHWA

1. Welcome and Introduction

Michael Aulick convened the meeting at 10:20 a.m. Mr. Aulick asked that all in attendance introduce themselves.

2. Approval of minutes from April 27, 2005 Meeting

ACTION:

Bob Dickenson made the motion for approval of the TEMPO minutes for the April 27, 2005 meeting; Sam Woods seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

3. Discussion of Reauthorization of Federal Transportation Legislation

Mike Leary informed TEMPO that the White House has agreed to a \$286 billion dollar funding for the transportation reauthorization bill. However, several high ranking House members and senators are advocating a change in the funding structure for the fourth quarter of 2005 that would preclude MPOs and states from receiving their PL funds and statewide planning funds this quarter. Essentially, the issue is how to provide sufficient obligation authority for members' highway priority projects given the fact that funding for nearly two years of the six-year bill has already been distributed with no project money included. Some members believe that the remaining 20% of the FY 2005 undistributed obligation authority should be used for projects, once a conference bill is passed. This would effectively stop any new federal aid projects between the day a reauthorization bill is passed and the beginning of FY 2006.

This concern also brings into question how much funding would be distributed for newly authorized programs that began in FY 2005. A full 12-month distribution of obligation authority for these programs could further crowd out the remaining 20% of obligation authority for the core highway and transit programs for FY 2005.

Mr. Leary continued by stating that this is a very delicate issue, given that the proponents for this funding change include both House and Senate leadership. As such, we are asking those of you who are able to do so to contact your Senators and Representatives and let them know that using the rest of the FY 2005 money to fund earmarks and other programs, rather than the core highway and transit programs, thereby freezing MPO allocations until the first quarter of FY 2006, would have a devastating effect on the MPO community.

If you are willing and able to contact your senators and representatives, this is especially important for those of you who have members of your congressional delegation on the reauthorization conference committee

Dan Kessler informed TEMPO that the North Central Texas Council of Governments has a letter that will be sent to their Representatives in Washington informing them the devastation to state departments of transportation (SDOTs) and MPOs.

Action

Michael Aulick will submit a letter on behalf of TEMPO. He also asked that MPOs affected also submit a letter to their representatives in Washington.

4. Discussion of funding formula allocation

Michael Aulick presented a summary of the current funding formula and four principles that the Executive Committee agreed to the previous day:

- No MPO should receive less in the future than it does today
- Air quality status should be considered -- what areas have to do because of non-attainment, maintenance or EAC areas
- A minimum allocation to MPOs and
- Maintaining a per capita balance in the PL funds

Michael stated that the discussion can't go very far until Congress acts. He referred TEMPO members to the table in the agenda packet (Attachment A). CAMPO staff explained the existing formula. General discussion followed about the approach to be taken, PL and FTA 5303 funds, ability of TxDOT to continue to provide the non-federal match for PL and FTA funds, continuing discussions with TxDOT and FTA and FHWA, AMPO dues.

Action

A motion was made to pursue statewide AMPO dues taken off at the beginning of the statewide allocation process. Motion was unanimous.

5. Discussion of Status of Planning Contract

The planning contract has been submitted for review to the Texas Transportation Committee. The comment period for the planning contract will open in early September.

All TEMPO members are encouraged to submit comments to the Executive Committee and the comments will be compiled and submitted to the Texas Transportation Committee during the comment period.

Linda LaSut asked that the TEMPO membership be notified when the proposed rules are published in the Texas Register.

6. Discussion of Public Transportation Study Group

Joanne Walsh, SA-BC MPO Executive Director, briefed the TEMPO members on the “Process to meet State Legislature requirement on Regional Transit Plans” (Attachment B.)

7. Announcement of upcoming training opportunity

Jose Campos announced that a Safety Conscious Planning course is scheduled in Austin for August 23 and 24. The course objective is to identify opportunities for improving the manner in which safety is integrated as a key planning factor and performance measure in all transportation plans and programs.

8. Other business and open discussion

Mr. Aulick adjourned the meeting at 12:55 PM.

Michael Aulick, TEMPO Executive Director

