

**CROSS PLAINS RURAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
MINUTES
October 18, 2012
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
Kenneth Liggett, Clay County Judge
Trey Carrington, Throckmorton County Judge
Greg Tyra, Wilbarger County Judge
John Bullock, Young County Judge
Ray Gonzalez, Proxy for Wichita County Judge, Woody Gossom, Jr.
Al Smith, Proxy for Cooke County Judge John Roane
Curtis Warner, Mayor, City of Electra
Howard Raeke, Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Henrietta
Jim Henson, Mayor, Lakeside City
Ron Sellman, Proxy for Mayor Jim Goldsworthy, City of Gainesville
Joe Singer, Proxy for Mayor Dan Fears, City of Iowa Park
Mitch Grant, Proxy for Mayor Jeff Bearden, City of Vernon
Mike Whaley, Proxy for Mayor Carl Law, City of Burkburnett
Vanessa Price, Proxy for Mayor West, City of Callisburg
James Yohe, Proxy for Mayor Robert Fenoglio, City of Nocona
John Studer, Proxy for Mayor Ronald Reeves, City of Seymour

Other Participants

State Rep. Elect, Drew Springer
Jennifer Smith, for Senator Estes
Michael Lytle, for Congressman Thornberry
Leon Klement, Cooke County Commissioner
Larry Pannell, Electra City Administrator
Joe Gambill, Nortex Regional Planning Commission

TxDOT Staff

Larry Tegtmeyer, P.E., District Engineer
Danny Brown, P.E., Director of TP&D
Mike Beaver, P.E., Design Engineer
Carole Mayo, WFS Administration
Allan Moore, P.E., Director of Construction
Mike Hallum, P.E., Gainesville Area Engineer
David Rohmer, P.E., Wichita Falls Area Engineer
Glenn Allbritton, P.E., Traffic Engineer
Adele Lewis, PIO, TxDOT
Ben Coker, PIO, TxDOT
Tammy Marlow, North Region, TxDOT

The Cross Plains Rural Transportation Council (CPRTC) met at the Nortex Regional Planning Commission Conference Room on October 18, 2012. The meeting began at 9:30 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 the July 19, 2012 meeting**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as documented and the motion carried.

5. **Topics**

• **Project Prioritization – Judge Beesinger and Danny Brown**

Danny Brown discussed the newly proposed projects that were indicated in red text on the Project Voting Form provided at the meeting. The new projects submitted for prioritization, in alphabetical order by county, include:

#1	US 281	Archer County	Widen Rdwy, Upgrade to Super2	est. \$9,685,000
#7	US 183	Baylor/Wilbarger Co.	Widen Rdwy, F-W Super2	est. \$17,810,000
#14	FM 677-FM 373	Cooke Co.	Widen Rd, add Shldrs	est. \$14,080,000
#15	IH35	Cooke Co.	Widen Rd, add lanes	est. \$400,570,000
#16	IH35	Cooke Co.	Widen Bridge, Safety merge	est. \$1,500,000
#20	US 82	Cooke Co.	Increase Rdwy or dev. Loop	est. \$100,000,000
#22	FM 922	Cooke / Montague	Widen Rdwy, add Shldrs	est. \$9,740,000
#29	IH 44	Wichita Co.	Reconstruct Intersection	est. \$2,500,000

The projects determined to be removed from the prioritization list because they have either been completed, have been let or they have been requested to be removed by the project sponsoring entity, will be listed as a removed project on a list provided at the next meeting, January 17, 2013.

An accumulative negative ranking for a listed project indicates the level of difficulty in moving the project to letting. This ranking does not indicate a poorly selected project, just that there may be difficulties, delays or issues with moving the project forward through the process.

0 = Local project
1 = Regional project

There are 1- 5 levels of safety scoring.

“X” marked in the far right column indicates the voter recommends the project for removal from the list.

The results will also be posted on the CPRTC Website at the following location:

www.TxDOT.Gov

click on the **Wichita Falls District**
click on **Cross Plains Rural Transportation (CPRTC)** Website link

Judge Beesinger stated Project #1 US 281 in Archer County, will serve as an alternate route to IH-35. There is a lot of traffic on US 281 and this project will help the congested locations. He stated Project #2 FM 1954 is a realignment of the roadway that will make the site distance at the intersection better.

Mitch Grant with the City of Vernon discussed Project #7 US 183-283 from Vernon to US 277 will be an alternative route to IH-35. Letters of support for this project were submitted to the council from The Business Development Corporation of Vernon, Mayor Ronald Reeves of the City of Seymour and Mayor David Webb of the City of Altus, Oklahoma.

The entities state the proposed route and improvements will provide a viable future alternative to reduce north-south congestion on IH 35 and the wider shoulders promote safety by reducing accidents with wildlife that heavily populate the route. The route is currently under study to become part of the Great Western Cattle Trail of the National Historic Trails System, making it a significant tourism highway.

Judge Tyra, Wilbarger County Judge stated a great deal of over-wide routing traffic is routed to this roadway. At various locations along this roadway, you have to drive in the bar ditch when you meet over-wide / over-weight vehicles. Most if not all of the ROW needed for this proposed project has been acquired.

Mike Beaver of TxDOT stated Projects 6 and 7 are basically the same project. Judge Tyra proposed Project #7 will replace # 6 and requests that #6 be removed from the Priority List.

Al Smith with Cooke County discussed Project #14. Cooke County anticipates a major sand plant and increased drilling activity and FM 677 & FM 373 need pre-emptive work pryor to sand truck traffic on the roadways.

Al stated FM 1199 is a safety issue project.

Project #s 17 and 20 are feasibility studies and are not shown on the Project Map.

Ron Sellman, with the City of Gainesville says IH-35 is becoming very congested and these are considerations of loops to accommodate the truck routing to US 82.

The Public Meeting at the Gainesville Community Civic Center concerns these feasibility studies. When Ringgold opens up and US 82 is wider, this will open up to more truck traffic. We are looking at a southern route to the FM 678 area. We are looking at making a freeway of US 82; it is significant for this area due to the amount of traffic and increases safety and mobility for the county.

Al Smith stated Project #20 is only \$100,000,000 and it is to prevent total gridlock into Denton County. Three times a day, most of Gainesville travels IH 35 along with those just passing through. IH 35 is taking on a tremendous amount of responsibility/traffic; it is difficult to prioritize projects in competition with IH 35.

Ron Sellman says we want to look at making Projects #19 and #20 one project.

Danny Brown proposed the council leave Projects 17 and 18 on the list and remove Project #20.

Al Smith stated, Project #22 that is already on the list and was re-submitted, has moved into a safety issue due to truck traffic.

Mike Whaley with the City of Burkburnett says Project #29, IH-44 in Wichita County was submitted to eliminate confusion in traffic. There is a high rate of accidents in this area. Near head-on collisions with truck traffic navigating the underpass frequently occurs. There is confusion on both sides of IH-44.

On the west side of the merge there is a lot of rear-ending accidents. We have a school zone and pedestrian traffic at this location as well. We are open to suggestions on what it will take to improve safety at this location.

Mitch Grant discussed Project #36. We are working on the drainage on this right now with the jack & bore system. This will not be included in the estimate on the project list. It is essential we address the drainage issues in this area due to pressure for development in this area.

Danny Brown mentioned the US 277 project from Seymour to Knox County has been let and was removed from the project list.

Project #6 is now #7

Project #17 is now #20

6. Other Business – Judge Beesinger

Glenn Allbritton, TxDOT Traffic Engineer discussed roadways in our District for which the speed limit will be changed to 75 MPH. In Phase I, IH-35 and IH-44 will increase to 75 MPH. Some of our roads will remain 70 MPH. Phase II, speed studies for FMs will begin in Spring of 2013.

Judge John Bullock of Young County asked about the process of changing the speed in a speed zone. Requests for changes should be sent to the Area Engineer in charge of the roadway or they may be sent to Glenn Allbritton, Traffic Engineer located at the TxDOT District Headquarters at 1601 Southwest Parkway in Wichita Falls, Texas 76302. Glenn stated, concerning the 75 MPH changes, TxDOT is not studying roads that have speeds less than 70 MPH right now. Also, those roads in the non-attainment zones will remain 65 MPH for now.

The Council scored and submitted their Project Prioritization Voting Form.

- 7. Next Meeting Date** - Thursday, January 17, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, April 18, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, July 18, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.

8. Topics for Next Meeting

- Results of October 18, 2012 Project Prioritization
- Election of CPRTC Chair and Vice-Chair

9. Adjourned at 10:56 am