

Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO)

CAPCOG Board Room
2520 South IH 35, Suite 100
Austin, Texas
Friday, November 12, 2004

Summary Minutes

Councilmember Karl Ansbach, City of Lakeway	Comm. Don Loucks, Bastrop County
Michael Aulick, CAMPO	Mayor Caroline Murphy, City of Bee Caves
Bruce Byron, CATC	Rosie Moulinet, HRM Consultants, Inc.
Mayor Eric Carlson, City of Elgin	Comm. James Oakley, Burnet County
LeRoy Click, Travis County	Shuronda Parks, CTRMA
Councilmember Tina Collier, City of Cedar Park	Comm. Maurice Pitts, Lee County
Ed Collins, TxDOT	Richard Ridings, CTRMA
Robert Daigh, TxDOT	Mayor Ray Sanders, City of Lockhart
Comm. Gerald Daugherty, Travis County	David Shrank, Texas Transportation Institute
Howard Falkenberg, Austin Area Research Organization	Daniel Smith, TxDOT
Alderman Bill Hamilton, City of Rollingwood	Eric Thronson, Austin Area Research Organization
Joe Holland, TxDOT	Judge H.T. Wright, Caldwell County

STAFF PRESENT

Betty Voights, Executive Director
Sean Moran, Director, Regional Information Services
Lucy Galbraith, Director, Regional Planning
Kimira Hysaw, Administrative Assistant

I. Call to Order – Mayor Ray Sanders, CARTPO Chairman

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ray Sanders who welcomed everyone and led introductions. Mayor Sanders then announced that the agenda order would be changed so that item three will take the place of item two.

II. Revised Small City reports for CAPCOG region – David Shrank, Texas Transportation Institute

Mr. Shrank presented two reports: one for the eastern counties (Bastrop, Caldwell, Lee and Fayette,) and the second for the western counties (Blanco, Burnett, Gillespie, Llano and Mason). Previous studies compared projected traffic growth on state-maintained facilities with land use currently taking place in these counties. This study focuses on off-system county roads-- private roadways and some city streets. The growth rates for the counties were highlighted with the conclusion that what is seen on the off-system matches the on-system. Copies of the reports were distributed to the committee and will be mailed to elected officials in the appropriate counties.

III. Transportation Project Financing Options – Bob Daigh, Austin District Engineer, TxDOT

Mr. Daigh presented information on the two projects that CARTPO presented to the Texas Transportation Commission for funding, SH71 in the Bastrop area and US290 between Elgin and Giddings. Discussions are still ongoing within TxDOT administration to seek clarification of the commission's comments. For the SH71 project, direction has come from the administration to continue to work with the local officials in the Bastrop area to see if they will be willing to accept this as a toll project. For the US290 project, since it is not toll viable because of its nature, work will be done regarding a pass-through tolling agreement. Pass-through tolling is owner financing in which a local entity designs and constructs a roadway that is paid back over time by TxDOT. One of the methods of setting the rate of payback could potentially be measuring traffic per vehicle axle. Other strategies besides bond elections to finance the roadways are being considered.

Discussion ensued on taxation, bond sales, the timetable for the projects, fund allocation, highway commissioners and possible actions by the legislature.

IV. TxDOT Update on CARTPO Projects

Ed Collins presented a handout that included information on FM2147, US281, and FM1431 for 2005. It also featured information on safety funding and Ogden bonds. The statewide credit submission was for \$1.8 billion, with the Austin district requesting \$71 million, and the highway grade separation requesting \$136 million.

Discussion ensued on the safety treatment of fixed objects, other CARTPO projects and FM1100.

V. CTRMA Tolling Policy – Solicitation of Input from CARTPO on how tolls will be charged, collected and enforced.

Richard Ridings and Shuronda Parks representing the Central Texas Region Mobility Authority passed out and discussed toll tags--electronic toll collection devices. A brief background of CTRMA was given, in addition to an explanation of proposed toll policies. A discussion ensued on the impact of tolls on tourism, the distribution of the tags, toll booths, cash collection, interoperability, the privacy policy, discounts and incentives, stolen tags, emergency vehicles, cost of cash toll and exact change collection, credit card collection, account set up, and the amount of toll. CTRMA was soliciting public comment on its proposed toll policies prior to formal adoption.

VI. Other Business

It was decided the next meeting would be January 14, 2005.

VII. Adjourn

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.