

Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization
(CARTPO)

CAPCOG Board Room
2520 South IH 35, Suite 100
Austin, Texas
Friday, March 11, 2005

Summary Minutes

Council Member Karl Ansbach, City of Lakeway	Alderman Bill Hamilton, City of Rollingwood
Travis Askey, Village of Bee Cave	Paul Hamilton, Texas State University
Comm. Wayne Brascom, Llano County	Comm. Ronny Hibler, Burnet County
Bruce Byron, CATC	Joe Holland, TxDOT
Mayor Eric Carlson, City of Elgin	Jeremy Martin, Austin Chamber of Commerce
Comm. Susie Carter, Hays County	Comm. Maurice Pitts, Lee County
Ed Collins, TxDOT	George Russell, City of Marble Falls
Comm. Gerald Daugherty, Travis County	Mayor Ray Sanders, City of Lockhart
Sandy Edwards, Regional Director, Senator John Cornyn's Office	Mayor Tom Scott, City of Bastrop
Howard Falkenberg, Austin Area Research Organization	Judge H.T. Wright, Caldwell County
Comm. David Goertz, Bastrop County	

GUEST PRESENT

Gil Wilson, TxDOT
Michael Aulick, CAMPO

STAFF PRESENT

Betty Voights, Executive Director
Sean Moran, Director, Regional Information Services
Eric Dusza, Community Planner
Georgette Nugent, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order – Mayor Ray Sanders, Mayor of Lockhart

Mayor Ray Sanders opened meeting with an introduction of all present. He then proceeded to discuss the Federal-Aid Highway Program and the desire to receive a higher rate of return than \$.88.

2. CAMPO Mobility 2030 Plan – Michael Aulick, Executive Director, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Michael Aulick gave a history of population growth along with a prediction of future growth, showing a difference of 1,970,000 from 1990 – 2030. He discussed the pros of toll roads, and while not proposing any new toll roads, he discussed Phase I and Phase II

and the percentage of already built roads that will become toll roads. Aulick offered alternatives other than driving in order to keep congestion down including commuter rails, rapid bus lines, and the option of biking or walking. The predicted cost of the CAMPO Mobility 2030 Plan is estimated at \$262 million, 15% of which will be set aside for bike and pedestrian lanes. He explained how if improvements were not made the congestion index would rise from 1.22 to 2.14 by 2030. Questions were asked and discussion ensued on how Sweet Water Ranch was not used in the data development, that the congestion would eventually affect surrounding counties, and that there is a need for self contained communities. It was also discussed that 10% of congestion on I35 is due to NAFTA. It was predicted that over the next five years, priority would be toll lanes and rail lines, and that there would be no major road construction beyond Phase I and Phase II. The Plan is physically constrained based on reasonably assumed revenue.

3. Regional Freight Train Relocation – Gil Wilson, TxDOT

Gil Wilson opened discussion with data stating that the rails carry 16% of all freight and cargo. If the rail does not expand, 900 tons of freight will be added to the highways by 2020. Wilson elaborated on why the rails need to be relocated in order for the best benefits. He started with the freight railroad impacts in urban areas such as fatalities at railroad crossings, emissions of engines and autos at crossings and noise issues. The Plans are Phase I – the Austin/San Antonio Corridor, adding small loops of rails around small towns, and Phase II – focused around efficiency. The next steps are to complete studies and secure federal approval. In response to questions asked, it was discussed that the I30 Corridor was not workable for rails and that outer Bastrop would be a better option. It was also reiterated that there would be many benefits in relocating the rails.

4. TxDOT FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program – Ed Collins, TxDOT

Ed Collins made an announcement of and extended an invitation to attend upcoming public meetings on the department's 2006 – 2008 Rural Transportation Improvement Program.

5. Discussion on CARTPO's 2005 Call for Projects – Alderman Bill Hamilton, City of Rollingwood

Alderman Hamilton discussed the Review of Project Selection Process. His suggestion was to select three top priority projects for the county and present them to the Texas Transportation Commission for funding. This will be discussed further at the April 8th meeting.

6. Adjourn

With no other business the meeting was adjourned.