

Ports-to-Plains Segment 1 Committee Meeting #5 Summary

June 11, 2020, 8:00 a.m.

WebEx*

**Note: WebEx was required due to COVID-19 shelter in place orders*

Attendees

Segment Committee Member	Organization	Attendance
Mayor Bob Brinkmann	City of Dumas	Not Present
Kevin Carter	President and CEO, Amarillo Economic Development Corporation	Present via WebEx
Judge Terri Beth Carter	Sherman County	Present via WebEx
Kasey Coker	Executive Director, The High Ground of Texas	Present via WebEx
Judge Ronnie Gordon	Hartley County	Not Present
Mayor Phillip Hass	City of Dalhart Designee: City Manager	James Stroud (Designee) Present via WebEx
Judge Ernie Houdashell	Randall County	Not Present
Kyle Ingham	Executive Director, Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	Present via WebEx
Tonya Keesee	Executive Director, Plainview Chamber of Commerce	Present via WebEx
Judge Harold Keeter	Swisher County Designee: Director, Tulia Chamber of Commerce	Present via WebEx
Joe Kiely	Vice-President of Operations, Ports-to-Plains Alliance	Present via WebEx
Gary Molberg	President and CEO, Amarillo Chamber of Commerce	Jason Harrison (Designee) Present via WebEx
Judge David B. Mull	Hale County Designee: County Commissioner	Present via WebEx
Travis Muno	Administrator, Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Org.	Present via WebEx
Mayor Ginger Nelson Designee and Segment #1 Committee Chair: Jared Miller	City of Amarillo Designee: City Manager	Jared Miller (Designee) Present via WebEx
Milton Pax Segment #1 Committee Vice- Chair	Vice Chairman, Ports-to-Plains Alliance	Present via WebEx
Ashley Posthumus	President, Dalhart Chamber of Commerce	Not Present
Mayor Ricky Reed	City of Stratford	Not Present

Segment Committee Member	Organization	Attendance
Judge Johnnie “Rowdy” Rhoades	Moore County Designee: Dee Vaughan County Commissioner Precinct 3	Dee Vaughan (Designee) Present via WebEx
Judge Wesley Ritchey	Dallam County	Not Present
Judge Nancy Tanner	Potter County Designee: Director, Road and Bridge Dept.	Not Present
Carl Watson	Executive Director, Dumas Chamber of Commerce	Present via WebEx
Ross Wilson	President and CEO, Texas Cattle Feeders Association	Not Present
Mayor Dan Pope, Ports-to- Plains Advisory Committee Chairman	City of Lubbock	Present via WebEx

Elected Officials

Shannon Harmon State Senator Perry’s Office

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

Caroline Mays	Krista Jeacopello
Roger Beall	Julie Jerome
Kit Black	Steve Linhart
Loretta Brown	Sherry Pifer
Blake Calvert	Jarred Shaffer
Emily Clisby	Peter Smith
Brian Crawford	Akila Thamizharasan
Gabriel De Ochoa	

Consultant Team

Wendy Travis	Garver
Michele Lopez	Garver
Tracy Michel	Garver
Sean Wray	Garver

Other Attendees

Duffy Hinkle	Ports-to-Plains Alliance
Cheri Huddleston	Hance Scarborough

The Chair of the Segment 1 Committee and City of Amarillo City Manager Jared Miller called the meeting to order on 8:03 a.m. and the meeting proceeded with roll call of attendees.

Introduction

Caroline Mays, TxDOT Director of Freight, Trade, and Connectivity introduced the TxDOT staff participating on the call.

TxDOT representatives (Peter Smith, TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming (TPP) Division Director, and Roger Beall, TxDOT TPP Division Deputy Director thanked everyone for their participation and leadership.

Advisory Committee Chair and City of Lubbock Mayor Dan Pope thanked all the Segment Committee members. He noted this is the third committee meeting this week; this will be the final meeting to finish our work and the Chair and Vice Chair will submit this report to the Advisory Committee at the end of the month. He thanked the TxDOT partnership, leadership, and consultant team for their work and especially all the people working along the corridor that helped this effort.

Mr. Miller echoed Mayor Pope's thanks, and especially thanked this Segment Committee's members and all the hard work during this busy time. This meeting should be more of a review as we look at this report this final time.

Meeting Agenda Overview and Public Meeting Overview

Ms. Mays provided an overview of the meeting agenda, which is predominantly a final opportunity for the Segment Committee to review and revise its report before it is submitted to the Advisory Committee per House Bill 1079 (HB 1079). She continued to provide a summary of the May 14, 2020 public meeting, conducted virtually because of the COVID-19 virus situation. The public meeting is a requirement of the HB 1079 to present preliminary Segment Committee recommendations and provide the public an opportunity to comment. The meeting had good attendance. TxDOT received one written comment which was a comment in support of the study. No questions or comments regarding the public meeting were raised by the committee.

Segment Committee Draft Report Review

Chapter 1 (Introduction) and Table of Contents

Ms. Mays provided an overview of Chapter 1 which summarizes HB 1079, Segment Committee membership, the study development process, and the organization of the report.

The following comments were provided:

- Page 15 text "...span of 1000 miles" is also in the summary – remove duplicate text in employment section and keep in summary.

Chapter 2 (Existing Conditions and Needs Assessment)

Ms. Mays provided an overview of Chapter 2 which discusses the existing conditions of the corridor. She noted the committee spent quite a bit of time going over this information to lay the foundation for the study including safety, truck traffic, roadway conditions, socioeconomic factors, key issues of energy, agriculture, international trade, land use, and environmental issues of the corridor.

The following comments were provided:

- Page 26 right side first paragraph, last line, need space between "an 18". (Mr. Miller)

- Page 26 “in from 2010” delete extra word in last paragraph. (Mr. Miller)
- Page 28 add an “s” to “show”. (Mr. Miller)

Chapter 3 (Forecasted Corridor Conditions)

Ms. Mays provided an overview of Chapter 3 which discusses the forecasted conditions and projections to 2050.

The following comments were provided:

- As you continue through the chapter, it’s over 8 pages and a reader may struggle with what this comparison is about. Some suggested text will be provided for some of the sections that follow. (Mr. Kiely)
- Page 18: number of counties are different than on Page 44 – fix discrepancy. (Mr. Kiely)
- Section 3.3.1 suggested edits to add “for the baseline interstate upgrade” in the section and to the agriculture and energy sections as well. (Mr. Miller)
- Page 60, Section 3.7 add language to make that transition between this section and the next Section 3.8. (Mr. Kiely)

Chapter 4 (Interstate Feasibility Analysis and Findings)

Ms. Mays provided an overview of Chapter 4 which discusses the feasibility analysis of an interstate upgrade.

The following comments were provided:

- Page 71 Truck volume change to “truck volumes are” or “truck volume is”. (Mr. Miller)
- Page 72 “As described in 4.3.1...” extra space at the start of that sentence. (Mr. Miller)
- Page 78 first bullet on the left side of the page, either state “interstate are” or “interstate is.” (Mr. Miller)
- Page 79 provide some clear description about what data is being compared. 2050 baseline and 2050 interstate numbers are what the important numbers that should be the focus of discussion from Chapter 4 on. And some of the bullets as well. (Mr. Kiely)
- Page 79 The planned and programmed projects do not reduce crash rates by 41 percent – there’s improvement with planned and programmed projects and then an additional improvement with the interstate. (Mr. Miller)
- Page 83 travel cost savings – extra space in that sentence, add a “to” in the first part of that sentence. (Mr. Miller)
- Mayor Pope asked Ms. Mays to discuss the rate of return change in economic change.
 - Ms. Mays talked about benefit/cost ratio and the previous report stated 2.8, but state-wide benefits were inadvertently double-counted and so is now 2.4, which is still a good benefit/cost ratio.
- Page 85 and 86 tables on third column, change heading of table to “2050 Interstate” (Mr. Miller)
- Page 91 second bullet “By contrast...” add “of” before the word “Laredo”. Last paragraph on top right of the page – is a repeat of what was already said in this section – delete the redundancy. (Mr. Miller)

Chapter 5 (Public Involvement and Stakeholder Engagement)

Ms. Mays provided an overview of Chapter 5 as three components for the process of engagement: role of the Segment Committee; public involvement requirements under HB 1079; and, Segment Committee coordination with TxDOT Districts. No comments or questions were raised by the committee on Chapter 5.

Chapter 6 (Recommendations and Implementation Plan)

Ms. Mays provided an overview of Chapter 6. It includes two components: the committee recommendations and the implementation plan.

The following comments were provided:

- Page 100 on importance of corridor, include crash reductions include here I
 - On bullets, (top right of Page) - add the rest of Texas jobs and GDP (Mr. Miller)
 - Add the importance of the entire corridor being completed, suggest the following text to include, “The economic benefits listed in this report come by fulfilling the implementation plan fully for the entire corridor. The economic benefits of the development of the corridor is important to each segment, but do not accrue to any individual segment without completing the entire corridor.” (Mr. Kiely)

Appendices

Ms. Mays provided an overview of the Appendix contents. No comments or questions were raised by the committee on the Appendices.

Executive Summary

Ms. Mays provided an overview of the Executive Summary.

The following comments were provided:

- Add other Segment Committee comments about the growth of warehousing distribution businesses along developed interstates.
 - Page 17 Ms. Mays noted that the maps mentioned above would be added to this summary as well.
- Page 15 maybe switch or add language to make clear with the addition of an interstate for the percentage stats on top of page. (Mr. Kiely)

Open Discussion

Carl Watson, Dumas Chamber of Commerce asked if the final report will be available to share with their local officials.

Ms. Mays replied that once the report is finalized, it will be handed over to the Chair and then to the Advisory Committee. It will be available on the study website.

Mayor Pope asked Mr. Miller to ask the Segment Committee to approve having the Chair and Vice Chair finalize the report without having to reconvene the full committee.

Mr. Miller asked for consensus to authorize him and Mr. Pax to make the last final changes. He asked if anyone had concerns.

Kevin Carter, Amarillo Economic Development Corporation, motioned to give the authority for Mr. Miller and Mr. Pax to make final changes for the final report.

Sherman County Judge Terri Beth Carter seconded the motion.

None opposed.

Mayor Pope stated he will meet with the Segment Committee Chairs the week of June 22nd to help finalize the Segment Committee report.

Ms. Mays thanked all the committee members for getting through the inclement weather and the pandemic to continue meeting and move this process forward.

Mr. Miller stated the magnitude of this effort in a short amount of time has been a great piece of work. He echoed his thanks for everyone for all their work and for TxDOT and consultants and Mayor Pope. He noted that Mayor Pope has been to every meeting, and the effort he has put in has been greatly appreciated.

Mayor Pope thanked everyone. He said there is still work to be done and appreciates everyone on this Segment Committee for their work. Seeing the project to completion will continue to be the challenge.

Mr. Miller adjourned meeting at 9:41 am.

Action Items:

- Committee Members will submit final comments by end of the day (6/11/20).
- Jared Miller, Milton Pax, and Mayor Pope to finalize the Segment Committee report when they meet the week of June 22nd.
- The Segment Committee report will be submitted to the Advisory Committee by June 30, 2020.