APRIL 11, 2016

WISE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

On this the 11th day of April, A.D., 2016 at 1:00 P.M. came on to be had a Wise County Thoroughfare Plan Workshop of the Commissioners' Court of Wise County, Texas held in the Election Administration Office (200 S Trinity Street) of said County in the town of Decatur with the following members present and presiding:

J.D. Clark		County Judge
Danny White	(Absent)	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Kevin Burns		Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Harry Lamance		Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Gaylord Kennedy		Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

Sherry Lemon, County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners' Court when and where the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

All attachments referred to in the minutes of the Wise County Commissioners' Court are designated original or copy and are provided at the time of action by the Court unless otherwise indicated by provider.

County Judge Clark votes aye on all agenda items unless otherwise indicated.

1) Clark called the workshop meeting to order at 1:00 PM. All court members were present except Commr. Pct. 1 White.

Those present included in addition to those elected officials listed above: NCTCOG Director of Transportation Michael Morris; NCTCOG Senior Program Manager Dan Lamers; NCTCOG Program Manager Kevin Feldt; NCTCOG Sustainable Development Program Manager Jeff Hathcock; NCTCOG Senior Planning Project Manager Chris Reed; NCTCOG Technology support Donald Parker and David Tidwell; Wise County Engineer Chad Davis; Commissioners Court Attorney Thomas Aaberg; TxDOT Decatur Area Engineer Edrean Cheng; TxDOT Kevin Howell; County Clerk Chief Deputy Amanda Knox; Bridgeport Index Reporter Debbie Porter; Wise County Messenger Editor Kristen Tribe.

2) Morris stated that four years ago in partnership with TxDOT NCTCOG came to Wise County and requested to present an early project in good-faith effort to advance the Business 287/Hwy 287 interchange for safety improvements and to create a new identity for US 287. Morris stated the group will need to next discuss the planning process for the future vision of what is needed for transportation in Wise County. Morris stated the third thing would be to determine an early implementation to determine the next two or three needs; allow TxDOT and NCTCOG to review them and then be funded by NCTCOG. Morris stated the final item for discussion doesn't relate to transportation but is related to the many quarries in Wise County. Morris told the court that many of the quarries are holding water and wants to look into utilizing the water, if possible, for other uses through an environmental stewardship program.

Lamers told the court NCTCOG's goal is to help Wise County develop a comprehensive transportation plan. Lamers reviewed the attached "Wise County Transportation Plan":

- Page 8: Project Development Process
  Efforts of NCTCOG focused on determining Wise County's long term need. County's plans must fit into the Metropolitan Transportation Plan guidelines. Lamers stated NCTCOG will be primarily working in the 30+ years planning horizon but will continue to look at all areas of planning for Wise County.

- Page 9: Role of Transportation Planning
  Address current needs of existing conditions in 2016 and preserve a future vision beyond 2050. Lamers asked under the "Future Vision Beyond 2050" section whether the county wants to be a bedroom community (workers commute to other areas), an economic destination (workers commute to Wise County); or, an adjacent but distinct economy (mixed system with distinct economy)? Morris commented about the unique impact that Decatur has to the rest of the county regarding sales tax as compared to other counties. Morris stated there is this notion of destination but the county is on the cusp of a significant change that needs planning. Morris stated "The good news is, you have a lot of trucks; the bad news is, you have a lot of trucks." Morris asked if the future vision of the county is to be known as the largest supplier of base material in the region or if the vision is more than that.

- Page 10: Future Vision
  Lamers encouraged the court to think about the future vision of Wise County.

- Page 11: Plan Objectives
  Lamers stated that long-term vision (20+ years); strategic recommendations; and cultivating vital local support are things the court will want to think about for the transportation needs of Wise County. Lamers told the court it wants to help create a plan, planning process and tool the county can use to interact with the citizens and businesses of Wise County.

- Page 12: Application and Implementation Guide
  Lamers commented that NCTCOG will assist the county in providing a framework for collaborative planning efforts; will identify potential projects and funding opportunities; will assist in determining further study needs. Morris commented about the purpose of this planning is to be proactive not reactive when businesses seek out Wise County. Lamers encouraged the court to think about the role of the county in this process. Lamers suggested the county establish a steering committee to establish goals.

- Page 13: Potential County Roles
  Lamers outlined the transportation planning process and potential county roles. Lamers stated the goal once the plan is adopted is for the county to become an advocate for the transportation plan.

Reed outlined the Data Summary (Pages 15 to 22)

- Page 15: Preliminary Concerns Reported by County
  Current issues: safety improvements (gravel, oil/gas trucks and intersection improvements); urbanization and growth (county growth trends; commute lengths; and inter-county connectivity); and, future infrastructure concerns (maintenance and infrastructure preservation; capacity needs; freight routes and inactive quarries/water reuse)

- Page 16: Current Data Resources (See attachment)
  Reed told the court that NCTCOG is always looking for more data resources and encouraged the court to provide any information it may have that NCTCOG doesn't have already.

Reed reviewed the following data maps (See attachments):

- Wise County Forecast Demographic Changes: Growth in Population and Employment 2014-2040. (See attachments) Reed stated the countywide growth trend is 68% with a 34% growth in employment. Reed noted the growth in the southern portion of the county that is "bleeding" north and west into Wise County. Reed commented that Wise County can be a hybrid of the three community types.

- Daily Traffic Counts: Location and Year of Observation 2009-2014. Davis commented he can provide traffic count data for county roads.

- Heat Maps A for US 81 North of CR 1590 (Alvord TX), speeds, mph, by time of day in 15 minute intervals for the month of September 2015 from 12:00 AM through 12:00 PM.

Reed noted reductions in speed that might indicate an accident in the middle of the night but said that a high speed is maintained with no clear-cut morning peak or evening peak.

- Heat Maps B for US 81 between BU 380 and FM 51 (Decatur, TX), speeds, mph, by time of day in 15 minute intervals for the month of September 2015 from 12:00 AM through 12:00 PM.

Reed noted the slower speeds through the city and on-ramps.

- Heat Maps C for US 81 between SH 114 and FM 3433 (Rhome, TX), speeds, mph, by time of day in 15 minute intervals for the month of September 2015 from 12:00 AM through 12:00 PM.

Reed noted the slow-downs in mid-September during the midday. Reed asked about the reduction in speed in the early morning off-peak hours? Reed asked if this is due to the increase percentage of trucks? Kennedy told Reed that is where the Loves truck-stop is located. Davis and Kennedy told Reed that is the time the trucks are heading to work. Morris said this is a

geometric issue that can be discussed with TxDOT. Kennedy noted the backup in traffic in the evenings due to people exiting US 287 and getting on SH114 heading home.

- Heat Maps D for US 380 W of FM 1658 (Bridgeport, TX), speeds, mph, by time of day in 15 minute intervals for the month of September 2015 from 12:00 AM through 12:00 PM.

Reed suggested the slow-downs due to a traffic signal. Reed asked if it is a dangerous intersection? Kennedy noted there is a quarry on FM1658; gas refinery traffic and Lake Bridgeport located off of FM 1658. Burns noted FM1658 is not a huge stack up in traffic. Lamers noted the reduction of speed going into the City of Bridgeport.

- Heat Maps E for US 380 County Line Road (Denton/Wise County Lines), speeds, mph, by time of day in 15 minute intervals for the month of September 2015 from 12:00 AM through 12:00 PM.

Reed asked what kind of congestion Wise County is getting from Denton County? Reed stated there is not an urbanized slowdown in this area. Kennedy stated it is four-lane all the way to the Krum overpass (construction in the area).

- Heat Maps F for SH114 County Line Road (Denton/Wise County Lines), speeds, mph, by time of day in 15 minute intervals for the month of September 2015 from 12:00 AM through 12:00 PM.

Reed noted the consistent morning traffic rush in the eastbound lanes. Morris noted the capacity problem in the area and would forecast to 2040 to see what traffic will be in the future. Reed asked about why there doesn't appear to be an evening (westbound rush) to match the morning (eastbound rush)? Kennedy told Reed about the Northwest ISD campus in the area. Morris noted both school and work commuters in the morning eastbound peak time. Reed noted that many evening commuters may go by a different route, have other stops to make making the afternoon peak more evenly disbursed over time. Davis said he'd be interested in knowing how much of the morning peak truck traffic is only. Burns stated that truck drivers adjust their schedule to avoid the peak work/school commute.

- Heat Maps G for SH114 County Line Road (Denton/Wise County Lines) at FM156, speeds, mph, by time of day in 15 minute intervals for the month of September 2015 from 12:00 AM through 12:00 PM.

Reed noted this is a construction area. Reed asked "What is this going to look like when the chokepoint opens up?" Reed also asked about the impact this westbound traffic will have on Wise County?

Reed reviewed the map "Wise County Accident Locations 2013-2015 Crashes". Reed noted the size of dot increases on severity of accident (largest is fatality). Reed provided the following

data summary: Fatality: 39; Incapacitating Injury: 109; Non-Incapacitating Injury: 324; and, Non-Injury 2,528 (Source TxDOT crash records information system). (See attachment) Reed said the four fatality accidents on FM1810 stood out to him. Reed asked about the two fatalities near Lake Bridgeport and asked about safety issues on roadways?

Reed encouraged those present to place a sticker on the paper map on the conference table to identify locations that are dangerous.

Reed reviewed the "Approximate Location of Wise County Quarries" map and told the court NCTCOG is trying to get a more accurate map of quarries in Wise County. (See attachment) Clark asked if the Mine Safety and Health Administration would have a map of all Wise County quarries. Kennedy confirmed that it should have a map. Clark commented that the numbers on FM1810 would be very interesting to learn about. Reed noted the percentage of trucks on major roads overlay on the quarry map. Davis said the truck traffic is increasing 40% during the work hours and at night when there is not normal quarry activity the numbers are altering the amounts listed on the map. Morris and Reed discussed the intersection at FM1810/US287.

Morris and the court discussed redirecting traffic between US380 and FM1810. Morris asked if a dedicated truck lane or dedicated commuter lane would be needed on US287. Morris stated this doesn't have to be decided today. Morris discussed potential cross-over accidents on US287 and suggested concrete medians. Morris and Howell discussed safety on US287. Morris encouraged the court to think outside of the box about transportation needs.

Reed presented an "Oil and Gas Well Locations in Wise County" from 2012 provided by Texas Railroad Commission. Burns discussed truck activity to oil/gas wells during the life of the well. Morris and Lamer asked how a thoroughfare plan street can be established around existing oil and gas wells. Davis stated that the traffic counts he can provide contain classifications and truck volumes on them.

Davis asked Reed to show him where the air-quality monitor is located on the map in Wise County? Reed said he couldn't and Davis confirmed the county doesn't have one. Davis discussed TCEQ/EPA air quality testing.

Morris stated that long-term the county is going to have to build more thoroughfare plans and stated this is challenging because oil/gas wells are permanent. Davis said another challenge to the thoroughfare plan will be the Caddo/LBJ National Grasslands in the north and northwest part of the county. Burns commented about the traffic in the grasslands. Morris asked to get the Caddo/LBJ National Grasslands on all future maps for planning purposes.

Reed reviewed the "FEMA 2014 Flood Zones (100 Year) with Vulnerable Bridges" map. The court discussed roads and bridges that flood during heavy rains. Morris told the court he is on a state-wide committee to encourage TxDOT for low-volume rural crossings to design/warehouse materials for bridges. Morris requested several examples of low volume roads where the bridge floods for the purpose of bridge replacement. Kennedy stated the roadways that flood in Precinct

No. 4 are not the bridges but the roadway up to the bridge. Kennedy confirmed the bridges are built by the state. Morris requested to discuss this more in the future as a cost effective effort. Davis discussed future maintenance. Morris stated he's not building a cheaper bridge but building it faster.

- Page 17: Work Destination

Reed and Lamer discussed the percentages on the attachment as provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. Burns stated the amounts do not align with the workforce study performed for the county. Reed encouraged the county to share the data.

- Page 18: Home Destination

Reed and Morris discussed Wise County becoming a hybrid and a diversified job-based community. Clark stated forty years from down Wise County doesn't want to look like every other bedroom community down the road. Kennedy commented about the longevity of the quarries and oil/gas industry. Clark and Kennedy agreed the county needs to diversify.

- Page 19: Needed Data

Reed, again, encouraged the county to provide any data possible to assist in planning (See attachment).

- Page 20: What Now?

Lamer told the court to think about the structure the county wants on this thoroughfare plan. Lamer requested any additional data and said he'd like to come back at a later date to discuss findings.

Lamer noted the contact information for NCTCOG representatives. (Page 21). Morris told the court that NCTCOG will be as involved as the county wishes it to be but doesn't want to me doing anything the county doesn't wish to do. Clark told Morris he'd like to visit with Morris and NCTCOG about water reclamation from the quarries. Burns said a hydrologist and the Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District will need to be involved before any planning is done for the use of that water. Kennedy said most crushers are "wet crushers" and utilize the water. Morris said that there are filtration companies that can be utilized. Kennedy discussed ownership of quarries.

Morris asked the court to think about the ground-rules the county wishes to have? Burns said the county needs to include the cities and economic development corporations. Morris also said he wants to establish some next-step projects. Clark asked Morris how far out NCTCOG wants to meet? Lamer said two to four weeks. Lamer said NCTCOG is going to leave the paper map on the table to allow cataloging of where transportation issues are located. Reed said the map can be submitted electronically. Morris discussed future meetings. Clark commented about

incorporating this map into a future mobile meeting. Morris and the court discussed municipal thoroughfare plans. Davis stated the municipal thoroughfare plans were incorporated into the county thoroughfare plan. Davis asked Morris about project submission to Cheng or NCTCOG? Morris said to contact Cheng and or Lamers.

Lamers stated all information will be made available to the county electronically. Lamers asked Reed about setting up a website.

3) The workshop ended at 2:27 PM there being no further information to discuss.
Minutes approved this 25 day of APRIL, 2016, as printed.

J.D. Clark, County Judge, Wise County

Danny White, Commr. Pct. No. 1

Kevin Burns, Commr. Pct. No. 2

Harry Lamance, Commr. Pct. No. 3

Gaylord Kennedy, Commr. Pct. No. 4

ATTEST:

Sherry Lemon by Amanda Knox, Chief Deputy

Sherry Lemon, County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners' Court, Wise County, Texas.

The Wise County Commissioners' Court adopted the ***Rules of Procedures, Conduct & Decorum at Meetings of Wise County Commissioners' Court*** on February 28, 1994 and the rules have not been revised.

Addendum:
The following abbreviations are used in reference to current Wise County projects.

WCCAB – Wise County Courthouse Annex at Bridgeport
SWA – Southwest Architects Inc.
TxDOT/DPS - Texas Department of Transportation/Department of Public Safety
TAC – Texas Association of Counties
TFP – Wise County Thoroughfare Plan
WHJ – Wiginton, Hooker and Jeffry, P.C. (in relation to Wise County facilities Master Study Plan)
WCWC – Weatherford College Wise County campus