

**JUNE 13, 2016**

**WISE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING**

On this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 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		Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Kevin Burns		Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Harry Lamance	(Absent)	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 to order at 1:00 PM. Commissioner Precinct No. 3 Lamance was absent. Clark had NCTCOG representatives introduce themselves as well as all others in attendance. (No attachment)
- 2) NCTCOG Senior Program Manager Dan Lamers reviewed the enclosed NCTCOG Wise County Transportation Plan presentation. (See attachment)

Lamers told the court that NCTCOG through its Transportation Department is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) that conducts regional transportation planning in North Central Texas. Lamers stated the major responsibilities include the Metropolitan Transportation Plan; Transportation Improvement Program; Unified Planning Work Program; Congestion Management Process; and, Air Quality Conformity.

Lamers reminded the court of the NCTCOG TFP workshop in April of this year and reviewed the plan objective (Page 5) and application/implementation guidance (Page 6) of the handout. Lamers stated, "We're here to develop a plan that you can use; that you can use in a lot of different ways; prioritize projects; county bond program, or federal grant funding. It's always good to have projects ready to go because you never know when funding is going to materialize and you have a list of project to choose from for those opportunities." Lamers also pointed out the relationship between the type of transportation system and the county's future development patterns. Lamers reminded the court that it has 100% control over the type of development in the

county. Lamers told the court that NCTCOG wants to make sure the county understands how the county can maintain this plan in the future.

NCTCOG Senior Planning Project Manager Chris Reed presented the "Follow-up on Potential Problems and Opportunities" section of the workshop (Page 8) and reviewed the following Preliminary Concerns Reported by the County: gravel/oil & gas trucks; intersection improvements; safety issues; maintenance and infrastructure preservation, etc.

Reed stated that since the last meeting NCTCOG has noted the concern of flooding issues and low water crossings. Reed noted the Flood-Vulnerable Roads map (Page 12) and stated the information was sourced by local media.

NCTCOG Technology support Donald Parker reminded the court that some of the data presented today was presented at the previous meeting.

Parker reviewed the following maps with the court:

- Major Transportation Corridors (Page 9) and noted residential development in the southern part of the county and noted very few transportation corridors in the southwest part of the county.
- Projects in Wise County (Recent and Planned) (Page 10) noting recent projects in green and Mobility 2040 projects in red.
- Parker reviewed a map of quarries in Wise County (Page 11). Parker noted this is not a definitive map.
- Flood-Vulnerable Roads (Page 12) showing the 100-Year Floodplain for the county. Parker told the court these areas can be addressed for planning and capacity issues.

Parker noted there is a packet of maps provided today that will not be reviewed during the workshop but are available. (See attachments)

- "Volume Bands – Project Change in Vehicle Traffic 2017-2040" that shows projected growth on major roadways in Wise County. Parker noted roads that are green only are roadways where projected growth is not anticipated between 2017-2040. Parker noted roads outlined in red (around the green) are road with expected volume increase.
- "Wise County Accident Locations 2013-2015" and noted that the accidents included are fatalities and those causing incapacitating injuries; the less severe accidents were removed from the map presented in April. Parker stated that NCTCOG, on this map, is looking for "hot spots" where safety improvements need to be made. Parker noted fatality accidents on FM 1810.

- “Wise County Forecast Demographic Changes: Population Distribution and Growth 2014-2040”
- “Wise County Forecast Demographic Changes: Growth in Population and Employment 2014-2040”
- “Wise County Forecast Demographic Changes: Employment Distribution and Growth 2014-2040”

Reed encouraged those present to ask questions. Reed presented information to the county regarding the structural organization of the study and reviewed the project development process (Page 14). Reed presented a Study Organizational Structure example from another county and discussed a Policy Committee; Leadership Advisory Committee and Technical Support. Reed stressed this is an example only. (Page 15) Reed reviewed the Study Timeline and County Roles (Page 16) Reed reminded those present of the importance of data to aid in the planning process. (Page 17).

Reed opened the workshop for discussion as to who will represent the county as Study Leadership. Reed asked how the court wants to disseminate information? Clark told Reed that the example, in his opinion, shows too many people in the Leadership Advisory Committee and expressed concern about having such a large committee. Lamers told Clark that a lot of the structure will have to do with what the county wants to do with the study at the end of the plan. Lamers commented about local government involvement. Lamers expressed understanding of the county wanting to look at the major issues of the county overall and how improvements might help the cities; and, not helping the cities identify municipal issues.

County Engineer Chad Davis noted completed projects other than what was represented on the “Projects in Wise County (Recent + Planned)” map. Davis told Reed that he is the Wise County Floodplain Director and encouraged NCTCOG to contact him regarding low-water crossings, flooded roadways, etc.

Burns and Kennedy commented that “there’s not enough red on that map (Floodplain)”. Kennedy commented that not all flooding issues are natural with some being caused by the people that own the lake who are concerned about selling water and not flood control. Kennedy stated, “We can’t build enough bridges to solve that problem.” Lamers stated the county has a good network of major roadways for today but don’t necessarily have what is needed for the future. Kennedy commented about thoroughfare issues in the southwest area of the county (Precinct No. 4)

Clark asked the court who they would like to see in TFP planning leadership in addition to those sitting around the table (Bridgeport EDC Director Kevin Holzbog; Decatur EDC Director Thom Lambert; and Boyd City Administrator Greg Arrington)? Burns commented that he’d like to see representation from real estate development. Burns stated that real estate development growth will greatly impact future transportation.

Lamers asked the court if it is okay with the two-level committee structure (on the example) or if it wishes to combine the committees? Lamers confirmed with Clark that the policy committee will include those present at this meeting table, but noted that Clark wants to be strategic with appointment to the Leadership Advisory Committee. Lamers and the court discussed inclusion of any other established groups to the Leadership Advisory Committee. Kennedy commented about mayoral involvement. Clark stated, "You've got to invite everybody or nobody and the focus concentrates on city needs and this is not what that needs to be." Burns commented about representation from the natural resources and the aggregate industries to provide projections as they affect a thoroughfare plan. Lambert discussed keeping the focus on the thoroughfare needs of the county as a whole. Arrington discussed leadership in the southeast area of Wise County.

Lamers told the court that NCTCOG will check with the court in a couple of weeks regarding specific leadership. Lamers asked about communication between groups and confirmed the county will facilitate communication with the Advisory Committee and will flow as follows: NCTCOG communicating with the Policy Committee who will then communicate with the Advisory Committee. Clark stated that he doesn't see it as being separate meetings. Lamers confirmed the Policy Committee will be "around the table" with the Advisory Committee "off the table" so decisions will be made by the Policy Committee. Lamers confirmed that communication with the Technical Staff will be directed to the Policy Committee.

Reed discussed the "County Infrastructure and Development"; the role of transportation planning; and the future vision of the county as a bedroom community; regional destination; and adjacent, but distinct community (Page 19-21)

Parker reviewed the map "Wise County: Home-to-Work Journeys (Percentage of Total Employment Destinations in Year 2014)" Parker noted 34% of Wise County residents work in Wise County while 25% travel to Tarrant County; 9% travel to Denton County; and 11% travel to areas in the Dallas/Fort Worth region. (Page 22) Parker stated the trend currently indicates Wise County as mostly bedroom communities.

Lamers asked the court to think about the information Parker provided in light of Wise County is sending more people out of the county to work than those that are staying in the county to work? Lamers stated the higher the number of Population-to-Employment Ratio the more people you have than work. Lamers stated if it is a low number you have more employment or balanced number in population to work ratio. Lamers stated the county is currently at 1.66 Population/Employment Ratio meaning the county has more people than jobs.

Parker reviewed and discussed the chart "Population/Employment Balance 2017-2040 (Page 23) and explained Population/Employment Ratios for surrounding counties. Parker stated that if current trends hold for Wise County the county will become more of a bedroom community.

Reed added that the higher the ratio the closer an area comes to being a commuter suburb while the lower the ratio the more a community becomes an urban center.

Reed opened the workshop to discussion for recommendations and ideas for implementation of the plan. Lamers discussed the vision of the county will determine the transportation system for the county. Lamers discussed thoroughfare needs for various types of community vision the county wants to be. Lamers reviewed a structure of what will be in place next for Wise County. (Page 25)

Burns and Clark discussed with the court and Lamers about the current status of Wise County as a bedroom community. Clark told Lamers that the county would love to have plans that make Wise County a distinct economy but the bedroom community growth is coming to the County from neighboring counties. Arrington discussed connectivity to Wise County from the Alliance Corridor and other metroplex areas.

Clark asked about priority/issues transportation Wise from the economic development perspective? Lambert discussed that being a bedroom community is nice but it won't pay for themselves or the amenities the county wants. Burns discussed needed improvement of local safety around natural resources that are leaving the county. Burns stated the county needs assistance immediately to take care of those issues. Burns stated that is the county's immediate concern and assistance would be appreciated from the MPO. Lamers commented about the determination of the immediate needs and future needs. Burns commented, "Because to us, all of those red dots have a name."

Lamers stated NCTCOG will be eager to hear about how the county is projected to develop in different ways from various groups and discussed the projections by NCTCOG through 2040. Lamers reminded the court that all future decisions made by the county will have to be weighed against the NCTCOG transportation plan that will be put in place. Holzbog asked about historic data to determine where the county is now and will grow into? Lamers discussed the impact of higher-income home owners on tax rates of established communities. Lamers told the court there are a lot of things that need to be thought through by the county.

Davis discussed undevelopable areas in Wise County (Caddo/LBJ National Grasslands; Floodplain areas). Burns asked when the last workforce study was done for Wise County? Lamers stated NCTCOG can assist with such information. Lambert discussed movement of large business to major transportation corridors. Kennedy and Davis discussed thoroughfare development in Precinct No. 4 and 2.

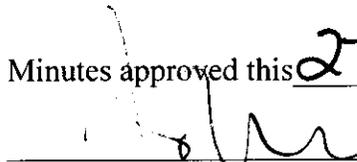
Holzbog told those present that there are several factors regarding quality of life for people moving to Wise County. Clark discussed transportation as it relates to Wise County residents shopping locally even if they commute to other areas for work. Lamers stated it is important to fill in the gaps in an already good network of roadways connecting within the county and to other counties.

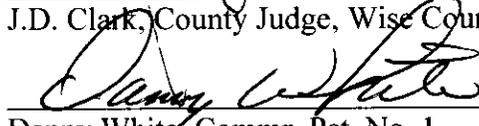
Lamers discussed residential development in the area north of Bridgeport where the quarries are located. Kennedy commented to the vitality of the aggregate industry to the county.

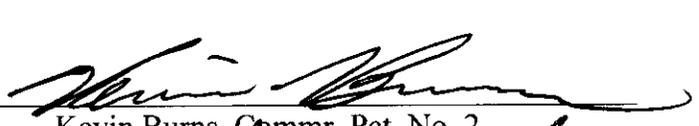
Lamers told the court that NCTCOG will anticipate meeting with the county again within the next 6-8 weeks.

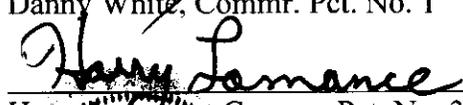
3) Clark adjourned the workshop at 2:24 PM, there being no further information to be discussed.

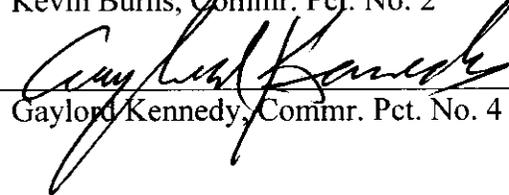
Minutes approved this 27th day of June, 2016, as printed.

  
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J.D. Clark, County Judge, Wise County

  
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Danny White, Commr. Pct. No. 1

  
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Kevin Burns, Commr. Pct. No. 2

  
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Harry Lamance, Commr. Pct. No. 3

  
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Gaylord Kennedy, Commr. Pct. No. 4



  
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Sherry Lenson, 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 Jeffrey, P.C. (in relation to Wise County facilities Master Study Plan)

WCWC – Weatherford College Wise County campus