WAMPO Policy Board

Thursday, October 15, 2026

City of Waco Facilities Operations Center
1:30 p.m.
1415 N 4th St, Waco, Texas

Waco Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Summary Notes

Policy Board Members Present:

Jacob Bell	Citizen Representative, City of Waco
Deidra Emerson	Assistant City Manager, City of Waco
Calvin Hodde	City Manager, City of Lacy Lakeview
Jim Holmes	Mayor, City of Waco
Scott Felton	County Judge, McLennan County
Susanne Nemmer for Will Jones	County Commissioner, Pct. 3, McLennan County
Craig Lemin	City Manager, City of Robinson
Yost Zakhary	City Manager, City of Bellmead
Kevin Neal	City Manager, City of Lorena
George Chase	Council Member District Five, City of Waco
Stan Swiatek	District Engineer, TXDOT, Waco District
Bryan LeMeilleur	Assistant City Manager, City of McGregor
Nathan Embry	Plan Commissioner, City of Waco
Andrea Barefield	Council Member District One, City of Waco
Michelle Hicks	City Secretary

Policy Board Members Absent:

Darius Ewing	Council Member District Four, City of Waco
Jim Jaska	Northeast Cities, City of Ross
Adam Niolet	Assistant City Manager, City of Woodway
Jim Devlin	City Manager, City of Hewitt

Staff Present:

Mukesh Kumar	Executive Director, WAMPO
Daniela Gallegos	Public Engagement Specialist, WAMPO
Arthur Chambers	Senior Planner, WAMPO
Annette Polk	Senior Planner, WAMPO
Nora Roy	Senior Planner, WAMPO
Devon Legare	Administrative Assistant, WAMPO

Others Present:

John Habermann	TTI
Suzette May	Mobilize Waco
Laurie Kaczmarek	City of Lacy Lakeview
Michael Bolin	TTI
Victor Goebel	TXDOT
Mohab Samuel	TXDOT
Amy Burlarley-Hyland	McLennan County
David Shaw	Haley and Olson
Dante Perez-Bravo*	Unknown
Andy Haferkamp*	TXDOT

**Attended Virtually*

1. **Call to Order, Proof of Posting.**
   Chair Andrea Barefield called the October 15, 2026, meeting of the WAMPO Policy Board to order at 1:41 p.m. A quorum of members was met. No other meetings were called into session.

   Meeting agendas were posted on the WAMPO website on October 7, 2026 and at the City of Waco website on October 6, 2026 noting a possible quorum of the Waco City Council.

2. **Public Hearing** regarding any discussion or action item on this agenda.

   Visitors were invited to address the Policy Board regarding any action or discussion item identified on this agenda. No visitors approached the Board.

3. **Approval** of the September 10, 2026 meeting minutes as presented.

4. **Update and Discussion** on policy issues and considerations of interest to the Policy Board.

   Result: *Provided an overview of WAMPO's redesignation and governance structure. The Policy Board now has formal oversight of the Executive Director, while the City of Waco continues serving as fiscal agent. The Board discussed establishing an Executive Committee, with recommendations anticipated in November. For information and discussion only. Update provided by Dr. Mukesh Kumar.*

5. **Update and Discussion** on the background and implications of MPO redesignation.

   a. Background

   Result: *Discussion continued regarding the proposed Executive Committee's membership, responsibilities, and role in evaluating the Executive Director's performance. A draft framework will be presented for future consideration. For information and discussion only. Update provided by Dr. Mukesh Kumar.*

6. **Update and Discussion** on fiduciary responsibilities of the Policy Board.

   a. Background

   Result: An overview was provided on the Policy Board's responsibilities for prioritizing transportation projects, allocating federal funding, and ensuring fiscal accountability. Discussion emphasized long-term regional planning, collaboration with TxDOT, and project readiness. *For information and discussion only. Update provided by Dr. Mukesh Kumar.*

7. **Update and Discussion** on Waco Area MPO's brand identity design effort.

   a. Background

   Result: *Provided an update on WAMPO's branding efforts with Presley Design Studio. Revised logo concepts are expected to be presented at the November meeting. For information and discussion only. Update provided by Dr. Mukesh Kumar.*

8. **Update and Discussion** on Complete Streets resources.

   a. Background

Result: *The WAMPO Complete Streets Policy and Design Manual are finalized and available through the MPO's Google Drive (contact MPO staff directly to request access link), with future hosting planned on the MPO website. Policy Board members are encouraged to share the resources with local jurisdictions and partner agencies. The principles will help guide future project planning and prioritization. For information and discussion only. Update provided by Dr. Mukesh Kumar.*

9. **Update and Discussion** on current grant efforts.

Result: *Updates were provided on SS4A, RAISE, and SMART Grant activities. The FY2024 SS4A Sign Inventory contract is anticipated for consideration in January 2027. SMART Grant equipment installation has experienced delays; however, preliminary results showed improved bus travel times and pedestrian signal compliance. For information and discussion only. Update provided by Dr. Mukesh Kumar.*

10. **Update and Discussion** from the Technical Advisory Committee.

Result: *An update was provided on the County Corridor Agreement Program, which supports coordination between TxDOT, counties, and developers to identify and preserve future transportation corridors. The TAC did not conduct the Special Election due to a lack of quorum. The election, to fill the remainder of the term beginning October 2025 and ending September 2027, will be held at the next TAC meeting scheduled for November 10, 2026. For information and discussion only. Update provided by Amy Burlarley-Hyland.*

11. **Update and Discussion** from the Texas Department of Transportation regarding significant highway construction within the Waco Metropolitan Area.

Result: *TxDOT provided updates on ongoing construction projects, including SH 31, IH 35 Brazos River bridges, FM 213, Old Robinson Road, and US 77. Several projects are nearing completion, while bridge construction and roadway improvements continue. For information and discussion only. Update provided by Mohab Samuel.*

12. **MPO Monthly Report.**

a. Initiative Ownership and Leadership
b. Work Group Updates-MLUT
c. Organizational Updates
d. PROTECT Grant
e. Travel Demand Model
f. Policy Board Member Attendance

Result: *Updates included proposed project leadership teams, Artificial Intelligence applications in transportation, submission of a PROTECT Grant application, development of the 2055 Travel Demand Model, and Policy Board attendance tracking. For information and discussion only. Update provided by Dr. Mukesh Kumar.*

13. **Announcements.**
    a. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, November 19, 2026
    b. **Request** for agenda items to be considered for future meetings

Result: *The next meeting location will be confirmed due to facility repairs at South Waco Community Center. Members were reminded to arrange proxies if they are unable to attend.*

14. **Hearing** of visitors regarding any item of WAMPO business not identified on this agenda.

    a. Note: The Policy Board cannot respond to comments received during this public hearing.

Chair Barefield opened and closed the public hearing at 2:40 p.m./2:40 p.m. No visitor comments were submitted.

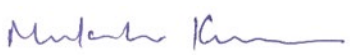
15. **Adjournment.**

There being no further business, the meetings were adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services should contact WAMPO at (254) 750-5650 at least seventy-two (72) hours before

this meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

I hereby certify that this agenda was posted on the bulletin board at the McLennan County Courthouse, Waco, Texas, on the _6th__ day of October 2026.



_____
Dr. Mukesh Kumar
Executive Director

Persons who wish to address the WAMPO Policy Board at a public meeting and need an interpreter may make such a request by calling 254-750-5650 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Persons who need additional information or a translation of this document may submit their request by calling 254-750-5650 or by mail to: P.O. Box 2570, Waco, Texas 76702.

Las personas que deseen dirigirse a la Junta Directiva de la WAMPO en una reunión pública y necesiten un intérprete pueden solicitarlo llamando al 254-750-5650 al menos con 24 horas de anticipación a la reunión. Las personas que necesiten información adicional o una traducción de este documento pueden enviar su solicitud llamando al 254-750-5650 o por correo postal a: P.O. Box 2570, Waco, Texas 76702.