



MINUTES

**LAKE CHARLES URBANIZED AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
JANUARY 14, 2016 AT 2:00 PM
2ND FLOOR, BOARD ROOM
SEED CENTER
4310 RYAN ST., LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA 70605**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Tim Conner (CPPJ) (Vice Chair)
John Cardone (City of Lake Charles)
Todd Landry (DOTD District 7)
Mary Bass-Fontenot (CPSB Transportation)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Dan Broussard (DOTD Planning Section)
Chandra Bondzie (FHWA – Louisiana Division)
Brandon Buckner (FHWA – Louisiana Division)
Dawn Sholemire (DOTD Planning Section)
Mayor Christopher Duncan (City of Sulphur) *
Mayor Robert Hardey (City of Westlake) **
Dick Gremillion (CP Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness)
J.D. Allen (Alliance Transportation Group)
Matt Vezinot (CP Sheriff Office)
Mister Edwards (COLC Public Works)

*Elected official who stood in place for absent TAC member, Randy Chiasson

** Elected official who stood in place for absent TAC member, Gary Williams

IMCAL STAFF:

Jerry Jones (Interim Executive Director)
Walter Council (Transportation Planner III)

ROLL CALL

In Mr. Donald Brinkman's (the Chair), absence, Tim Conner called the meeting to order. Mr. Council reported a quorum was present. Mayor Chris Duncan was present for Randy Chiasson and Mayor Bob Hardey stood in proxy for Gary Williams.

I. Review New Business

A. Election of Officers

Mr. Conner opened the floor for nominations. Mr. John Cardone nominated Tim Conner to be chair. Todd Landry 2nded. The motion carried unopposed. Mr. Todd Landry nominated Mr. John Cardone as Vice Chair. Mr. Chris Duncan 2nded. The motion carried unopposed

B. Scheduling Meeting Dates for 2016

Meeting dates and times as shown by the MPO By-Laws, the 3rd Thursday of every odd numbered month at 9:00 am, should remain as stated, besides any rescheduling or special meetings.

C. SOWELA Master Plan

Mr. Council noted a discussion with Lori Marinovich and Blake Sonnier of the City of Lake Charles, Planning and Public Works, respectively, about how to either change the scope of the current TIP overlay project (H.007113) at J. Bennet Johnson Avenue and/or suggestions on steps to take to implement the pedestrian and road improvements. Ms. Marinovich had scheduled a follow-up meeting with SOWELA's Director of Facilities, David Darbonne, and Chancellor Neil Aspinwall, explaining there were efforts to work with City of Lake Charles and Calcasieu Parish since the streets under review have shared ownership between the two governments. Mr. Matt Vezinot, Calcasieu Parish, Sheriff Office, mentioned that Chennault was planning another intersection, which may or may not impact the scope of the project. Mr. J.D. Allen mentioned LA DOTD needs to be made aware of it. Ms. Dawn Sholmire mentioned that the City and MPO need to be coordinated, plus if approved, to send her TPC minutes from the meeting saying the MPO made the changes. Mr. Council shared Ms. Katelynn McCartney's information on the Louisiana's Local Road Safety Program funds, which are available year-around for these types of projects.

D. Complete Streets

Mr. Council explained that members of the Complete Streets Committee wanted to restart the committee. Mr. Allen mentioned that he and Mr. Council had spoken with Brandon Jones, of Lake Charles Mayor's Commission on Disability, who was on the committee. Mr. Allen recommended to Mr. Jones that the MPO staff would attend some training meetings to be more knowledgeable on the subject, before reestablishing the Complete Street Committee meetings. Ms. Sholemire suggested there should be policy and procedures set in motion for the committee. Mr. Allen added that Complete Streets is an effort that encourage all new transportation project be evaluated for the feasibility of need of this approach. Mr. Cardone advised that when the Complete Streets Committee is far enough along in being organized, including names of members and officers, then report back to the TAC. Mr. Mister Edwards, Lake Charles Public Works, suggested identifying locations to implement Complete Streets, and to have a concise definition of the term.

II. Other Business

A. MAP Program

At the previous TAC meeting Ms. Sholemire discussed putting a cap on the MAP program. All the MPOs will have to provide 50% of funding. Under this new renegotiated/revamped contract, called a Title 39 Professional Services Contract, they will not be purchasing trucks, but only leasing them. The MPO would not be purchasing trucks, but leasing 2 patrol trucks instead. Also, the contract provides trained drivers and services. Ms. Sholmire stated that costs numbers are being examined, but also that LA DOTD is going to introduce a policy so the MAP program is fair and consistent

Mr. Allen mentioned what the opportunity to use STP<200K funds. Mr. Landry stated that another truck was supposed to be made available for the I-210 project, which will take 2 years to complete. However, that additional truck is exclusively for the bridge itself. Mr. Landry asked Ms. Sholemire to see if there is knowledge of the I-210 aspect, with regards to obtaining MAP vehicles for the MPO area.

B. I-210 Bridge Project

Mr. Landry stated that one direction on one of the spans will not be closed on I-210 project. Details still being worked out.

III. Adjournment

Mr. Conner motioned to adjourn. Mr. Landry seconded. The motion carried unopposed and the meeting adjourned.



Tim Conner
Chair



Cheri Soileau
Executive/MPO Director