

MINUTES

JANUARY 18, 2018, 9 – 11 AM, AT SEED CENTER, ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL MEETING, LAKE CHARLES, LA

MEMBERS PRESENT (QUORUM)

Tim Conner (Chair)
John Cardone (Vice Chair)
Heath Allen (Lake Charles Regional Airport)
Mike Daigle (City of Sulphur Public Works)
Don Duberville (LaDOTD District 7)
Gary William (City of Westlake)
Mary Bass-Fontenot (Calcasieu Parish School Board)

LCMPO STAFF

Benjamin Magallon (Transportation Planner II)

GUESTS

Carol Ponthieux (Mayor of Iowa)
Butch Babineaux (Fenstermaker & Associates)
Dawn Sholmire (DOTD)
Mike Huber (City of Lake Charles)
Al Hoover (City of Lake Charles Transit)
Mr. Vijay Kunada (Neel Schaffer)

1. OPENING

A. Roll Call

- Mr. Tim Conner called the meeting to order. Mr. Benjamin Magallon stated there was a quorum.

B. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting (September 21, 2017)

- Mr. John Cardone called to approve, Mr. Michael Daigle seconded.

C. Opportunity for Public Comments or Questions

- There were no public comments or questions.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. FOR INFORMATION: LaDOTD District 7 Legislative Public Hearing for FY 2018-19: Road Show

- Mr. Magallon gave a general overview of the Road Show.
- Mr. Cardone recapped the I-10 Bridge discussions, iterating the request from Westlake to reconsider the sub-alternative allowing Westlake a direct interchange.

- Mr. Huber asked if he was correct in his understanding that the Trump administration's Infrastructure proposal of only supplying a 20% federal match *did not* affect the Federal Highway Program, which would remain a 90% federal match.
- DOTD and FHWA representatives confirmed that the federal Highway program remained a 90-10 match.

B. FOR Discussion: I-10 Bridge Preliminary Alternatives: Southwest Louisiana Toll Commission

- Mr. Benjamin Magallon recounted the TPC's opinion of the tollway discussion, noting that the TPC were in support of exploring alternatives to funding local infrastructure needs.
- Mr. Magallon noted that the Mayors had been invited to attend a meeting in Baton Rouge with DOTD to further these discussions.
- Mr. Huber noted that it is possible to convince people, namely locals, to pay for the convenience of a toll facility. Mr. Magallon and Mr. Babineaux noted that concessionaires generally do a "sensitivity analysis" to determine the balance of effective fees, with fees that are palatable to the public.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. FOR ACTION: I-210 Bridge Regional Traffic Study Update

- Mr. Vijay Kunada gave a presentation of the preliminary modeling results of the alternatives for lane closures on the I-210 re-decking project.
- The alternative scenarios were:
 - I-210 closed (completely)
 - Open one lane each direction
 - Open east bound lanes only
 - Open west bound lanes only
- The presentation explained volume increases and travel time delays on major roadways for each alternative scenario.
- Mr. Kunada requested TAC guidance on selecting a preferred alternative so that Neel Schaffer could zoom in on strategies for mitigating impacts on the selected scenario.
- Mr. Cardone and Mr. Huber had questions about the inclusion of emergency services personnel in the consideration of incident management and congestion management.
- Mr. Kunada noted the involvement of these personnel in the stakeholder focus groups preceding the current presentation.
- Mr. Conner asked if the model volumes were indexed for growth.

- Mr. Kunada noted that the scenario numbers were based on current volumes and that growth over the next couple years would not substantially affect the model outcomes.
- Mr. Duberville noted that the let date for the project might be pushed back to 2019.
- Mr. Cardone asked if the current model volumes were based on actual traffic counts.
- Mr. Kunada noted that model volumes were based on current DOTD traffic counts.
- Mrs. Fontenot asked if projected volumes and DOTD traffic counts could be made available to the School Board.
- Mr. Conner asked for a recommendation.
- Alternative B (one lane in each direction) was deemed the preferred alternative to recommend to the TPC, given the following conditions:
 - Expected peak hour volumes and travel delay times be made available to the public in the final report.
 - Final report should be conveyed directly back to the focused stakeholder groups.
 - Specific coordination should be made with major employers and emergency services once final report is compiled.
 - MPO staff to iterate these conditions and peak travel times to TPC
- Mr. Cardone motioned to accept Alternative B, Mr. Duberville seconded.

**C. FOR Information: Preparation for Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
FY 2018-21**

- Mr. Magallon gave a briefing on the development of the TIP and the importance of LPA's submitting the stage 0 applications for projects to DOTD.
- There was some discussion on projects with 100% local funding on preliminary phases of the project. Municipalities were still strongly encouraged to submit project applications to follow DOTD review process and to get a project number for inclusion in the TIP.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Conner motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Cardone.


Michael Hollin

Mike Daigle
Chair

Michael Hollin

Cheri Soileau
Executive/MPO Director