

# MINUTES

JANUARY 23, 2020, 9 – 11 AM, SEED CENTER, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR BOARDROOM, LAKE CHARLES, LA

## TAC MEMBERS PRESENT (QUORUM)

Stacy Dowden (City of Sulphur Public Works) (Chair)  
Nick Pestello (Port of Lake Charles) (Vice Chair)  
John Cardone (City of Lake Charles)  
Tim Conner (Calcasieu Parish)  
Don Duberville (DOTD – District 7)  
John S. Allen (City of Westlake Public Works)

## NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Dawn Sholmire (LaDOTD State Planning Section)

## LCMPO STAFF

Walter Council (Transportation Planner III)  
Antonio Carrier (Transportation Planner III)  
Amber Ashworth (Regional Safety Coordinator)

## GUESTS

Butch Babineaux (Fenstermaker)

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### 1. OPENING

#### A. Roll Call

Mr. John Cardone called the meeting to order. Mr. Walter Council stated there was a quorum.

#### B. No Minutes to Approve

#### C. Opportunity for Public Comments or Questions

No public comments or questions.

#### D. Nominations and Election of TAC Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Council explained the LCMPO Bylaws indicate a new Chair and Vice Chair should be elected at the beginning of every even number year.

- Mr. Nick Pestello motioned Stacy Dowden for Chair, seconded by Don Duberville. Motioned carried unopposed.
- Mr. John Cardone motioned Mr. Nick Pestello for Vice Chair, seconded by Don Duberville. Motion carried unopposed.

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## 2. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Fuel and Freight transportation Optimization Tool (FTOT)

Mr. Council provided updates on staff working with FHWA and LaDOTD, to utilize local rice stakeholders for this pilot project.

- This pilot is to test the utility of FTOT to support State DOTs and metropolitan/regional transportation organizations in improved freight and transportation decision-making, analysis, and planning.
- The software can be utilized help LaDOTD prioritize which roads should be assessed for enhanced funding or analysis.
- There will be a final workshop for South Louisiana stakeholders March 17 - 18, 2020 in Lafayette.

### B. STP<200K Projects

Mr. Antonio Carriere explained and displayed the TIP FY 2019-22 STP<200K Responsible Charge Project Tracker table to be filled out by Responsible Charges. Below are the corrections recommended by TAC committee members.

- Updates showing status of previous year's funding.
  - Add fiscal years for the future.
  - Change "sponsoring agency" to "project sponsor".
  - Add summary work sheets.
- Committee members shared changes that should be made to the Responsible Charge Project Tracker
  - Hazel Street is in closeout.
  - Ruth Street is in pre-construction in next month
  - Henning/Weekly is still in design phase.
  - John Stine still under construction for resurface. There are utility issues.
  - J. Bennet Johnston has Notice to Proceed January 22, 2020 to February 22, 2020.

Mr. Council provided a 2045 MTP table of fiscally constrained projects, as well as TIP FY 2019-22 STP<200K General Project Tracker.

- Mr. Council shared that Westlake would not be able to make the local match for H.007122 Myrtle Springs Rd for FY 20, requesting it go into FY 22
  - Mr. Council explained that moving the \$1.7 million dollar construction project to FY 22 would be problematic. FY 22 is programmed for construction phase of H.013812 Ihles Road (City of Lake Charles) at an authorized cost of nearly \$8 million. LaDOTD and FHWA have provided a special permission for this cost amount, because typically the fiscally years are only supposed to average in a range around \$3.5

million/year. Thus, adding H.007122 Myrtle Spring's \$1.7 million/year to FY 22 would not be possible with the current programming. So, the committee under advising from staff and Dawn Sholmire from LaDOTD, pushed H.007122 to the next TIP FY 2023-26, and preliminarily in FY 23.

- To utilize the unused \$1.7 million void, the committee looked over the LCMPO 2045 MTP Roadway Project Prioritization Table.
  - Mr. Cardone, indicated that C-78 Sallier Street at Ryan Street intersection in Stage I of the table, should be viable for a local match, at an estimated cost of \$1.1. million for FY 21.
    - Ms. Sholmire expressed that the design aspect may take a while and needs to proceed as soon as possible.
  - Ms. Dowden indicated M-03 East Burton Street at Smith Road to Savoy Road in Stage 2 of the table, should be viable for a local match, at an estimated cost of \$600,000 for FY 20.
- Ms. Sholmire suggested any new programming needs to ready by FY 21
- TAC's full non-voting recommendation to the TPC:
  - Move H.007122 Myrtle Spring to FY 23
  - Add 2045 MTP M-03 E. Burton St., between Smith Rd to Savoy Rd, to FY 21, at a cost of about \$600,000. The Stage 0 is already complete.
  - Add 2045 MTP C-78 Sallier St at Ryan St intersection, which should be less than \$2 million to FY 21.
- Ms. Sholmire mentioned that TAC and TPC should be preparing now, about 2-3 years out from the TIP FY 2023-26, and to begin working on Stage 0s from projects in the 2045 MTP, utilizing STP<200K funding.
  - Mr. Cardone suggested at the next TPC meeting, we consider all the projects in the 2045 MTP that could be added to the TIP FY 2023-26, using STP<200K funding.
  - Mr. Conner mentioned that there may be some Calcasieu Parish Transportation Initiative (CPTI) projects that may be eligible for STP<200K funding.
  - Ms. Sholmire added if a project slips, we can have projects already lined up with Stage 0s.

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### 3. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Safety Performance Measures

Mr. Council requested TAC recommendation and TPC adoption for the MPO to adopt updated LaDOTD's Safety Performance measures and targets as Amendment I to the 2045 MTP.

- In accordance with document update procedures, as a MTP amendment, the 14-day Public Review/Hearing period will be initiated by staff on

1/31/20, TPC approval, and pending public comments, final adoption will be 2/13/20.

- Ms. Amber Ashworth added additional information of why the MPO should adopt LaDOTD's targets.
- Ms. Ashworth also noted that she would like to have the Regional Safety Coalition's Infrastructure and Operations (I/O) section at future TAC meeting, but specifically at the next Joint TAC/TPC meeting in February 20, 2020.
  - Ms. Sholmire added that a lot of MPOs have I/O meetings after TAC meetings.
- Mr. Tim Conner motioned to recommend TPC adopt LaDOTD's targets, seconded by Mr. Nick Pestello. Motion carried unopposed.

#### **B. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) FY 2020-21 (See Link in Email Invitation)**

Mr. Council explained that LaDOTD is requesting only a draft update of the UPWP FY 2020 -21 by March 1, 2020.

- The final deadline for TAC recommendation and TPC adoption, along with submission of the new UPWP to LaDOTD is before June 1, 2020.
  - Ms. Sholmire noted that these procedures give FHWA time to review the UPWP, before June deadline.
- Final PL funding allocations for UPWP FY 2020-21 will be provided to the MPO staff to insert in the UPWP tables in June 2020.
- Staff continues to review opportunities for anticipated unused funding for the current UPWP FY 2019-20.
  - Staff has looked at bike/ped, freight/congestion, and SOWELA transportation study.
  - Requesting any input for potential studies at the next Joint TAC/TPC meeting in February 20, 2020
  - Ms. Sholmire mentioned there can be no carryover of funds, according to LaDOTD. Those are viewed as LaDOTD's operational funds. Instead, all the MPOs across the state have their remaining funds aggregated together, and MPOs can make bids for those funds.

#### **C. HSTP/Transit Committee**

Mr. Carriere shared that staff is working on improving coordination, currently on a survey to enhance mobility management.

**D. 2020 U.S. Census**

Mr. Council shared U.S. Census is gearing up to begin the enumeration process for Spring 2020.

- U.S. Census sent out an inquiry to all jurisdiction to make sure that the statistical geographical areas were updated correctly.
- The U.S. Census will send a letter in mailboxes with a link, allowing for the first time for voters to vote via desktop or smartphone. Enumerators will knock on doors if the website census form is not completed.

**E. Louisiana Passenger Rail Station Assessment**

Mr. Council shared Powerpoint of a LaDOTD conducted comprehensive study of all rail stations in the state:

- The 2018 study developed to be a conceptual for purpose of initiating the development of guidance towards the state's passenger rail transportation planning activities.
  - Review of industry standards
  - Combined with passenger rail station field assessments
  - Conceptual list of station features and standards that may applicable to future intercity passenger rail within the state.
- Lake Charles, along with all the other stations that are on the Sunset Limited route in the study, are all Category 4 stations, which is lowest ridership of less than 20,000/year: Lake Charles (4,000/year); Lafayette (6,100/year); and Hammond/Slidell (11,000/year).
- Enhancements suggested for Lake Charles's station included low cost station signage, increased passenger amenities, and platform reconstruction.
- Final considerations for Lake Charles' station included taking advantage for development of nearby vacant or underutilized parcels, access to downtown Lake Charles and McNeese, fulfilling Lake Charles bike/pedestrian master plan to design bike lane down Ryan Street.

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**4. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Don Duberville motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Tim Conner.



Stacy Dowden  
Chair



Walter Council  
Transportation Planner III