

MINUTES

APRIL 23, 2020, 9 AM – 10:30 AM, VIRTUAL ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT (QUORUM)

Nick Pestello (Port of Lake Charles) (Vice Chair)
John Cardone (City of Lake Charles)
Tim Conner (Calcasieu Parish)
Seth Woods (DOTD – District 7) (Proxy for Don Duberville)
Kevin Melton (Chennault International Airport)
Mary Bass Fontenot (Calcasieu Parish School Board)

NON-VOTING TAC MEMBERS

Dawn Sholmire (LaDOTD State Planning Section)
Casey Lewis (LaDOTD Rural Transit)

LCMPO STAFF

Michael Hollier (Interim Executive/MPO Director)
Walter Council (Transportation Planner)
Antonio Carrier (Transportation Planner)
Amber Ashworth (Regional Safety Coordinator)

GUESTS

Mike Huber (City of Lake Charles)
Butch Babineaux (Fenstermaker)
Al Hoover (Lake Charles Transit)
Butch Babineaux (Fenstermaker)
Katie Armentor
Cade McLemore (CPPJ)
Mark Hebert (LaDOTD)
Marion Greene (City of Lake Charles)
Cindi Richard (City of Lake Charles)

1. OPENING

A. Roll Call

Mr. Nick Pestello called 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. Introduction of IMCAL's Interim Director Michael Hollier

Mr. Michael Hollier introduced himself and expressed his enthusiasm to work with the TAC to implement MPO activities.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) FY 2020 - 21

Mr. Council provided updates on staff working on the UPWP FY 2020 -21.

- Staff is utilizing checklist provided by FHWA and LaDOTD to complete the document.

Mr. Hollier shared that staff asked all the TAC members to provide their top 5 tasks that could be turned into studies.

- The top 5 were the following:
 - (9 votes) Congestion Plan
 - (7 votes each) Bike/Pedestrian MPO Wide Plan; Designated Safety Problem Areas
 - (6 votes each) Corridor Studies and/or Plans; Roundabout Plans
- Mr. Hollier noted funding and determining which one is most viable to study.
- There were no further suggestions for studies.
- Mr. Hollier said they would add these tasks the UPWP, under FHWA B8 tasks.

B. LCMPO STP<200k Projects for TIP FY 2019 - 22

Mr. Antonio Carriere explained and displayed the updated TIP FY 2019-22 STP<200K Transportation Projects Status Report.

- J. Bennett Johnston construction nearly complete.
- Enterprise Boulevard pushed back, not scheduled to let to October 2020. Program manager is waiting for city to complete state/entity agreement.

Mr. Council noted that from the 2045 MTP, C-78 Sallier Street (Ryan Street intersection) and M-13 Post Oak Road (Division Road to Burton Street) were the two projects identified and supported by vote at the Joint TAC/TPC meeting on January 29, 2020, to substitute for funding allocation void left by removing H.007122 Myrtle Springs Road to FY 23.

- Mr. Cardone and Mr. Mike Huber noted that Sallier Street was still in the design phase.

Mr. Hollier noted the COVID-19 pandemic situation could potentially put pressure on jurisdictions' revenues and put the projects they anticipated having local matches in jeopardy.

C. Project Call Preparation for TIP FY 2023 – 26 Using STP<200K Funds

Mr. Council explained that staff was still looking forward to conducting a Project Call for the TIP FY 2023 -26, in the next couple of months.

- He stated that he will be sharing the project call documents soon.

D. SWLA Regional Safety Coalition

Ms. Amber Ashworth shared some Regional Safety Coalition information.

- She asked Mr. Council to add an email she sent earlier to the Project Call packet, mentioned in previous agenda item.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2019 -22 Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modification and Amendment XI and XII

Mr. Carriere shared administrative modification updates.

- Mr. John Cardone asked if moving H.011839 Henning Drive/Weekly Road from FY 19 to FY 20 would impact other projects in STP<200K category.
 - Ms. Dawn Sholmire explained it currently would not have a negative impact on projects, but it needed to be moved

Mr. Carriere requested TAC recommendation for Amendment XI in Transit Element section of TIP FY 2019 -22, consisting of Lake Charles Transit 5307 grant for \$1.3 million (80/20 Fed Share) for operations for preventative maintenance. The 14-day Public Review/Hearing period was initiated by staff on 4/23/20.

- Mr. Cardone motioned, seconded by Mr. Conner, with no objections.

Mr. Carriere requested TAC recommendation for Amendment XII in Transit Element section of TIP FY 2019 -22, consisting of Lake Charles Transit Coronavirus AID, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act for \$5.3 million (100% Fed Share) to help respond to and recover from COVID-19 pandemic. The 14-day Public Review/Hearing period will be initiated by staff on 4/27/20.

- Mr. Cardone motioned, seconded by Ms. Mary Bass- Fontenot, with no objections.

B. Shovel Ready Projects?

Mr. Hollier asked the committee what shovel ready projects are available? If an agency or jurisdiction had a project ready to go, then he would like to discuss those projects, for two reasons:

- 1) LaDOTD or FHWA Funding will sometimes become available spontaneously, and if a project is shovel ready then it can be funded quickly.
- 2) There are other sources besides LaDOTD and FHWA that are always looking to utilize funds.

Mr. Conner noted they have some shovel ready projects and will follow up.

Mr. Cardone asked if needs to have a Stage 0.

- Mr. Hollier said not necessarily need Stage 0, sometimes they can be a smaller less impactful categorical exclusions (CE). He re-emphasized these projects don't need to LaDOTD type project.

Mr. Kevin Melton mentioned that he is looking forward to working with Mr. Hollier and staff.

4. ADJOURNMENT

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



Stacy Dowden
Chair



Michael Hollier
Interim Executive/MPO Director