

# MINUTES

MAY 27, 2021, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM, SEED CENTER ROOM B/C OR ZOOM MEETING

## TAC MEMBERS PRESENT (QUORUM)

Nick Pestello (Vice Chair)  
John Cardone (City of Lake Charles)  
John Bruce (Calcasieu Parish)  
Mary Bass Fontenot (Calcasieu Parish School Board)  
Brian Duplichain (Westlake)  
Health Allen (Lake Charles Airport)  
Kevin Melton (Chennault International Airport)  
Seth Woods (LaDOTD)

## LCMPO STAFF

Michael Hollier (Interim Executive/MPO Director)  
Walter Council (LCMPO Transportation Planner)  
Jamie Gaines (Special Projects Manager)

## GUESTS

Brennan Marque (GIS Analyst)  
Justin Habetz (GIS Technician)  
Claude Smart (IMCAL)  
Angela Murrell (LaDOTD)  
Butch Babineaux (Fenstermaker)  
Casey Lewis (LaDOTD)  
Kelli Van Norman (City of Lake Charles)  
Joe Umeozulu (LaDOTD)

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## 1. OPENING

### A. Roll Call

Mr. Nick Pestello, TAC Vice Chair, called the meeting to order. Mr. Mike Hollier called Roll to identify attendance. He stated there was quorum for Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).

### B. Agenda Addendum

Mr. Hollier requested an addendum to the minutes to add to New Business the following:

- E. Safe Routes to Public Places Program Grant
- F. Calcasieu River Bicycle-Pedestrian Crossing

Mr. John Cardone motioned, seconded by Ms. Mary Bass Fontenot. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion to adopt the recommendation, which passed unanimously.

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## 2. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Proposed MPO Roundabout Plan

Mr. Hollier explained that staff's Senior Transportation Specialist, Mr. Claude Smart, went beyond the MPO boundary to evaluate the proposed possible roundabouts. Staff is seeking formal adoption by the MPO and once completed can be presented to local governments to incorporate into their local master plans. Roundabouts are in recommended evaluation and design that can be examined by jurisdictions to protect Right of Ways, such as 20 feet enhanced setbacks. This provides good starting to protect cost escalations. They were selected based on safety reviews and congestion management.

Mr. Brennan Marque shared sample maps of some of the selected roundabouts from the plan. Noted there was an elevated skirts and surface areas. Basically, this was opportunity to show that a roundabout can work in these areas if so desired by jurisdictions.

Mr. Mr. John Cardone motioned, seconded by Ms. Mary Bass Fontenot. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion to adopt the recommendation, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Mr. Smart explained they talked with the City of Lake Charles, LaDOTD District 7 Neel Schaffer Roundabout Plan, and crash data helped to generate.

### B. Proposed MPO Major Arterial Corridor Studies

Mr. Hollier requested an addendum to the minutes to add to New Business the following:

Mr. Hollier noted that City of Lake Charles requested a corridor study of Kirkman Street and was aware that District had received some funding for Ryan Street (\$7 million dollar allocation). There will be a follow-up meeting on Ryan Street corridor study. He encouraged all local government to identify major roadway. Certainly, if in 2045 MP can be further evaluated for further studies. If any additional recommendations from Sulphur or Westlake, please let the MPO know.

### C. FY 2023-26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Call for Projects

Mr. Council shared the new projects submitted for the Call to Projects, by City of Lake Charles and Calcasieu Parish. If the new submittals were jointed with anticipated LaDOTD it would aggregate to about \$15.1 million (80% Fed Share). That amount is only \$1.1 more than the standard \$14 million for the Surface Transportation Program<200K (STP<200K) that funds MPO funded projects.

Mr. Hollier mentioned that there was conversation with City of Sulphur by Calcasieu Parish to replace West Cal project with 2 roundabouts, so that may need to be re-evaluated.

Mr. Hollier reiterated that this amount is right just slightly above the threshold of allowable projects that can be funded in the next TIP FY 2023-26, using STP<200K funds.

**D. MPO Resolution on Proposed I-10 Bridge Over Calcasieu River**

Mr. Hollier explained that TPC Chair West Crain was waiting for one more confirmation before sending Resolution 2021-03 to LaDOTD. The bike/ped path on bridge was included in the written package, and they would see where it goes from there. He added that LaDOTD expressed if TPC had picked the Alternatives 3A and 3E, instead of 5G, there would be better possibility for bike/ped support from state's perspective.

Ms. Jamie Gaines mentioned that a 2<sup>nd</sup> Context Sensitive Solutions meeting would be conducted on June 16, 2021.

- Mr. Cardone inquired if bike/ped was included in Resolution and about cost. Ms. Hollier responded it was included in resolution, but 5G currently supported by LaDOTD. Ms. Gaines said the estimate for bridge was still being evaluated.

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**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. FY 2019 - 22 TIP Administrative Modifications**

Mr. Council shared the following for information only.

**1) TIP Administrative Modification 19 Record Item No. 45**

Highway Element Section

Increased original construction cost of H.011839 Henning Dr/Weekly Rd from \$348K (\$382.8K w/ 10% contingency) to \$800K (\$880K w/ 10% contingency) at 80% Fed Share using STP<200K funds.

**2) TIP Administrative Modification 20 Record Item No. 46**

Highway Element Section

Changed project name of H.012052 LA 3092 (Gauthier Rd) @ LA 3092 (Lake Street) to LA 3092: Gauthier Rd @ Lake Street Roundabout, for Engineering in FY 21

**3) TIP Administrative Modification 20 Record Item No. 47**

Highway Element Section

Increased construction phase cost for Project No. H.010865, I-210: Ryan St Intg – E Jct I-10, from original cost \$4.45M (\$4.895M w/ 10% contingency) at 90% Fed Share to \$5.4M (\$5.94M w/ 10% contingency) at 90% Fed Share using National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) funds in FY 21.

**B. Unified Planning Work Program FY 2020-21**

Mr. Council requested action on amended FHWA Section of UPWP to reallocate funding amounts to tasks: B1 Administration decreased from \$63,639 to \$56,988; B2 General Development and Comprehensive Planning decreased from \$72,500 to 70,782; B3 Transportation Improvement Program increased from 12,500 to 41,690; B7 Public Participation increased from \$38,420 to \$42,034; B8 Systems Planning decreased from \$112,500 to \$88,065.

TAC Vice Chair Mr. Pestello requested action on the amendment. Mr. John Cardone Motioned to recommend TPC adoption of the amendment, as stated above. Motion was seconded by Ms. Mary Bass Fontenot. The Vice Chair called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

**C. Unified Planning Work Program FY 2021 -22 – Walter Council**

Mr. Council requested action on adopting new draft of UPWP FY 2021 – 22, which lists the MPO staff work tasks, funding sources and budget amounts for new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

TAC Vice Chair Mr. Pestello requested action on the amendment. Mr. Seth Woods Motioned to recommend TPC adoption of the amendment, as stated above. Motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Melton. The Vice Chair called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

**D. Initiating Review of 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan**

Mr. Hollier wants to redo the fiscally constrained roadway/freight project in 2045 MTP. To many unnecessary projects hurts the modeling efforts.

He suggests a minimal of 50% minimal of current projects in 2045 MTP need to be removed. New engineering staff can help with this process. For example, the 2045 MTP Prioritized bike/ped plan needs to be re-evaluated, as well.

**E. Safe Routes to Public Places Program Grant**

Ms. Gaines requested action for TAC to recommend amending 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Prioritized Bicycle-Pedestrian table, moving project BP-328 Guillory St (John St Rd to St. John Bosco St), from Beyond 2045 MTP to the fiscally constrained Stage I (2025 Horizon Year) section. The 2045 MTP also includes bike/ped safety elements, plus indicates substantial local financial and MPO planning support, which is all information requested by the grant application.

- If TAC recommends amending 2045 MTP, staff will present and request adoption by the TPC at June 2021 meeting, along with initiating 14-day Public Review/Hearing process.
- TAC Vice Chair Mr. Pestello requested action on the amendment. Ms. Bass-Fontenot Motioned to recommend TPC adoption of the amendment, as stated above. Motion was seconded by Mr. Seth Woods. The Vice Chair called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

**F. Calcasieu River Bicycle-Pedestrian Crossing**

Ms. Gaines requested action for TAC to recommend amending 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Prioritized Bicycle-Pedestrian table, moving project BP-454 I-

10 Pedestrian Bridge, from Beyond 2045 MTP to the fiscally constrained Stage I (2025 Horizon Year) section. The 2045 MTP also includes bike/ped safety elements, plus indicates substantial local financial and MPO planning support, which is all information requested by the grant application. This amendment opens opportunity pursue grants like the Rebranding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. Mr. Cardone asked how this relates to bike/ped element the TPC recommended component on the I-10 bridge. Ms. Gaines responded that this effort works to help with bike/ped on the bridge or if that component is rejected.

- If TAC recommends amending 2045 MTP, staff will present and request adoption by the TPC at June 2021 meeting, along with initiating 14-day Public Review/Hearing process.
- TAC Vice Chair Mr. Pestello requested action on the amendment. Ms. Fontenot Motioned to recommend TPC adoption of the amendment, as stated above. Motion was seconded by Mr. Woods. The Vice Chair called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

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#### 4. INFORMATION

##### A. Developing a Southwest Louisiana Regional Transportation Plan

Mr. Hollier had two items to discuss. First was information on Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs) as companion to MPOs. There is a move to expand this effort by providing planning districts with additional funds to implement activities. Secondly, Mr. Hollier suggested looking comprehensively to enhance freight rail development in the area, with new opportunities emerging.

Lastly, also noted evaluation of potential Calcasieu River crossings south and north of I-10 and I-210 bridges.

Mr. Cardone mentioned that TAC did not recommend bike/ped on the bridge and that should be noted. Mr. Hollier noted that TPC discussed and eventually made a call on bike/ped and cable stayed elements.


Mr. Pestello inquired what LaDOTD has to do with Resolution 2021-03 for I-10 bridge. Mr. Hollier said that could be an extended conversation, but ultimately, federal regulations require that LaDOTD and MPO work together, but if one objects then that complicates any effort. Not clearly defined who has trump card, but clearly influence each other. For example, the MPO could say we want something with no changes, and LaDOTD could say fine you find the money. Mr. Hollier also mentioned the rail spurs near Westlake, which appears would be utilizing Union Pacific instead of Kansas City Southern spur. LaDOTD will work out details.

Mr. Joe Umeozulu stated that LaDOTD has completed review of questions from previous public meeting, known as Full Summary Report, so those responses are on the public website for the bridge. He also stated there would be an upcoming second Context Sensitive Solutions meeting.

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## 5. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cardone motioned to adjourn the Special TAC meeting, seconded by Ms. Fontenot.

  
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Stacy Dowden  
Chair

  
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Michael Hollier  
Executive/MPO Director