

MINUTES

AUGUST 18, 2021, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM, SEED CENTER ROOM B/C OR ZOOM MEETING

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT (QUORUM)

Nic Pestello (Vice Chair) (Port of Lake Charles)
John Cardone (City of Lake Charles)
John Bruce (Calcasieu Parish)
Mary Bass Fontenot (Calcasieu Parish School Board)
Brian Duplichain (Westlake)
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 (IMCAL)
Justin Habetz (IMCAL)
Steve Jiles (IMCAL)
Angela Murrell (LaDOTD)
Kelli Van Norman (City of Lake Charles)
Al Hoover (CoLC)
Marion Greene (CoLC)
Vijay Kunada (Neel Schaffer)

1. OPENING

A. Call to Order

Mr. Nick Pestello, TAC Vice Chair, called the meeting to order.

B. Roll Call

Mr. Mike Hollier called Roll to identify attendance. He stated there was quorum for Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).

C. Minutes (7/7/21)

Mr. John Cardone motioned, to approve and adopt the draft minutes of the meeting held on July 7, 2021, seconded by Mr. Seth Woods. Chair requested a vote on the motion to adopt the minutes of the July 7, 2021 meeting, which passed unanimously.

D. Addendum

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

- B. Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) FY 2019-22 Amendment 25 (Aggregate Record Item No. 49)

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

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Freight Movement

1. TAC Representation – Mr. Hollier is looking to establish a freight committee and working on finding individuals to be on it. Also, taking recommendations from TAC members.
2. Generating Freight Movement Counts – Mr. Hollier noted LaDOTD has this information, but typically MPOs have a handle on this in their area.
 - Mr. Hollier noted he has found a new employee that will start working on gathering this freight data. It is more than counting axles, but what is happening in all directions on the highways and how to facilitate those movements.

B. MPO Call for Projects Submittals

1. Review of Evaluating/Scoring Criteria – Mr. Council explained that City of Lake Charles (CoLC) and Calcasieu Parish (CPPJ) have submitted 11 projects total for TIP FY 2023 – 26. There are 17 criteria that will be scored for each project. He is asking CPPJ and CoLC to have the answers for 11 of them, and staff will provide the other 6. Then a day can be decided to score these projects to determine which ones make it into next TIP.
2. Timeline for Review – The Project Call scoring should take place in next 2 months.

C. 2045 Long Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan

1. Submittal of First list of Projects for Review – Mr. Hollier thanked LCMPO engineers, Claude Smart and Steve Giles, for their evaluation of the 160 plus projects in the Fiscally Constrained Roadway and Freight section of the 2045 MTP. The current list of projects are unreasonable in terms of what can be funded in the next 25 years, but also distort the travel demand model when LaDOTD or other consultants want to do modeling.
 - At some point the TAC needs to review and adopt new projects in next few weeks.
 - Mr. John Cardone suggested TAC be provided the list of deleted projects and reasoning behind removing them, instead of receiving all the projects, with Mr. Pestello in agreement. Mr. Hollier noted that method could be implemented.
2. I-210 Widening Project Status – Mr. Hollier noted the widening of I-210 to 6 lanes was mentioned as pre-I-10 Calcasieu River Bridge construction project. The idea being that when the I-10 Calcasieu River Bridge was under construction the diverted traffic could use a 6-lane road on I-210. Mr. Hollier noted he is recommending this action, but only sharing the information.

D. Corridors in System Planning

1. E. Prien Lake Road – Mr. Hollier shared that the street would be discussed later in

- the meeting as an action item.
2. Ryan Street – Mr. Hollier noted his general issues on Ryan Street and that LaDOTD has received an \$8M grant to be used over several years, but wonders if an extended corridor evaluation can be invoked using local or MPO funds.
 3. Ihles Road – Mr. Hollier suggested that although Ihles Road was cancelled from the TIP, it should be evaluated in terms of keeping the integrity of the goal of the project.
 4. Country Club Road – Mr. Hollier shared that Louisiana State Representative Phillip Tarver requested Mike to work on putting together a meeting to address getting this corridor into the 2045 MTP, but also in an earlier time frame. Mr. Hollier also noted that there be a Tri-Partite type agreement between the relevant agencies, to ensure the project is implemented with little to no issues, especially to protect the ROW from development. LaDOTD does have a comprehensive plan for the corridor, but no funding available at this time.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY 2019 – 22, Administrative Modification 22 (Aggregate Record Item No. 50)

Mr. Council shared information on moving construction phase of H.005967 Nelson Rd Ext & Bridge from FY 21 to FY 22; Adjusted construction phase of H.011839 Henning Dr/Weekly Rd Overlay, from \$800K in STP<200K at 80/20 in FY 21 to \$435K in STP<200K-E at 80/20 and \$536K in STP<200K at 80/20 in FY 21.

B. Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) FY 2019-22 Amendment 25 (Aggregate Record Item No. 49)

Mr. Council shared information on City of Lake Charles (CoLC) requested cancellation and removal of Project No. H.013812 Ihles Rd: W. Prien Lake – Country Club Rd, totaling \$7,997M (w/ 10% contingency) using STP<200K funds. That total amount will split evenly between CoLC and Calcasieu Parish, at \$3,998.5M each. Secondly, reallocate CoLC's half portion from cancelled H.013812 Ihles Rd and add to H.013870 Enterprise Road: Broad St to 12th St., totaling \$3,998.5M (w/ 10% contingency), using STP<200K funds. CoLC will provide 100% local addition of \$281.5K. Calcasieu Parish's portion will fund TBD project(s).

- 14-day Public Review/Hearing period was initiated by staff on 7-20-21.

Mr. Cardone motioned, to adopt Resolution No. 2021-10 Removal of Project No. H.013812 Ihles Rd: W. Prien from W. Prien Lake – Country Club Rd and Reallocating Funds to “To Be Decided Projects” for Calcasieu Parish as TIP Amendment 25, seconded by Mr. Woods. The Motion was passed unanimously.

C. 2045 MTP Amendment 6

Mr. Council requested TAC recommendation to TPC to adopt amending multiple Calcasieu Parish projects from Stage I of the Fiscally Constrained Roadway and Freight

Section of 2045 MTP. The funding for these projects represent half or \$3.1M of the reallocated funds from cancelled H.013812 Ihles Road.

- Mr. Bruce and Mr. Steve Giles dialogued that although these overlay maintenance projects were the best that could be assembled, because of time constraints of having to do ROW, Design, etc for capacity or safety projects, the use of STP<200K funds is typically not optimal for this this type of work.
- 14-day Public Review/Hearing period will be initiated by staff on 8/27/21
- Mr. Bruce motioned, seconded by Ms. Fontenot. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion to adopt the recommendation, which passed unanimously.

D. TIP FY 2019 – 22 Amendment 26 (Aggregate Record Item No. 51)

Mr. Council requested TAC conditional recommendation to TPC, once projects in New Business Item B are fully adopted in 2045 MTP. This conditional recommendation amends multiple Calcasieu Parish projects from Stage I of the Fiscally Constrained Roadway and Freight Section of 2045 MTP into FY 22 of the TIP FY 2019 – 22.

- 14-day Public Review/Hearing period will be initiated by staff on 8/27/21
- Mr. Seth Woods motioned, seconded by Ms. Mary Bass-Fontenot. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion to adopt the recommendation, which passed unanimously.

E. 2045 MTP Amendment 7 – MPO Bikeway and Pedestrian Plan

Mr. Hollier requested TAC recommendation to TPC, to approve revamping a MPO Bikeway and Pedestrian. It will be different from the 2045 MTP Prioritized Bike/Pedestrian Plan, which will continue to serve as a reference.

- 14-day Public Review/Hearing period will be initiated by staff on 8/27/21
- Mr. Kevin Melton motioned, seconded by Mr. Cardone. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion to adopt the recommendation, which passed unanimously.

F. First Transportation Safety Designated Corridor: East Prien Lake Road

Mr. Council requested TAC recommendation to TPC for E. Prien Lake Road, at Common Street, Kirkman Street, Louisiana Avenue, Enterprise Road, to be first entry into the Calcasieu Parish Local Road Safety Plan, as a Safety Designated Corridor.

- He explained that Louisiana Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) conducted a Road Safety Assessment (RSA) at the intersections.
- Louisiana Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) grant will be the primary funding mechanism that will be sought.
- Mr. Bruce motioned, seconded by Mr. Woods. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion to adopt the recommendation, which passed unanimously.

G. Transit Plan Status

Mr. Hollier shared that 2 grant transit applications were submitted, from Cameron Council on Aging and DeRidder/Beauregard Transit, requesting support from LCMPO. He would like to continue to share transit updates.

- Mr. Hollier segued into discussion on autonomous vehicles and how freight is moving forward with this technology, because of driver shortage and costs.

Ms. Fontenot agreed with the driver shortage issue.

- Mr. Hollier referenced a video on autonomous freight trucks, that will be shared with the committee. Texas and Arizona, among other states, have testing locations. LaDOTD is looking at I-20 near Shreveport and along I-49 to test trucks. Mr. Council noted Domino's Pizza doing autonomous vehicle testing in Houston, TX neighborhood, as well as Texas Southern University doing testing on their main pedestrian corridor.


4. INFORMATION

A. MPO Website Development


1. Ms. Jamie Gaines relayed that the LCMPO website will be stand alone.
2. It should be available in the next couple of weeks

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Melton motioned to adjourn the TPC meeting, seconded by Mr. Woods



Stacy Dowden
Chair



Michael Hollier
Executive/MPO Director