

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 7, 2022, 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM, SEED CENTER, 2ND FLOOR, ROOM D/E AND VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT (QUORUM)

Austin Abrahams (City of Sulphur)
Nick Pestello (Vice Chair)
Heath Allen (LC Regional Airport)
John Cardone (City of Lake Charles) (Proxy Mike Huber)
John Bruce (Calcasieu Parish)
Seth Woods (LaDOTD)
Dawn Sholmire (LaDOTD) (Non-Voting)
Carlos McCloud (FHWA) (Non-Voting Member)

LCMPO STAFF

Michael Hollier (Executive/MPO Director)
Jamie Gaines (Special Projects Manager)
Steve Jiles (Transportation Manager)
Walter Council (Transportation Planner III)
Justin Habetz (IMCAL)

1. OPENING

A. Call to Order Roll Call

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

B. Roll Call

Mr. Mike Hollier called Roll:

- Austin Abrahams (City of Westlake)
- Nick Pestello (Vice Chair)
- Heath Allen (LC Regional Airport)
- John Cardone (City of Lake Charles) (Proxy Mike Huber)
- John Bruce (Calcasieu Parish)
- Seth Woods (LaDOTD)

He stated there was quorum for Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

C. Minutes (12/7/21)

Mr. Cardone motioned, to adopt minutes from December 7, 2021 as submitted, seconded by Mr. Seth Woods. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

D. Nomination and Election of TAC Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. John Bruce motioned to nominate Mr. Nick Pestello for Chair, seconded by Mr. John Cardone. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. John Cardone motioned to nominate Mr. Bruce as Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Nick Pestello. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

- E. **ADDENDUM:** Add item C. to New Business, as TIP Amendment to add H.014974 I-10/I-210: Fence Repair. Mr. Cardone motioned, to approve addendum to agenda, seconded by Mr. Seth Woods. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

1. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project Status

- 1) Enterprise Boulevard Overlay Reconstruction in City of Lake Charles
 - Mr. Council and Mr. Hollier shared that they will be continuing to follow-up and get authorized by end of June 2022. Mr. Woods suggested August 10, 2022 was letting date. Mr. Hollier noted it needs to be authorized by September. Mr. Huber said it seems to be LaDOTD approval holding things up, since the design is 80% complete.
- 2) Post Oak Road: Division Rd to Burton St to Aubriana in Sulphur
 - Mr. Abrahams had no additional information to add. Project is still in motion.

Mr. Hollier reiterated if a problem surfaced the priority was to solve it.
- 3) Recommendation on TIP Projects
 - Mr. Bruce said they were on track schedule wise with Calcasieu Parish Overlays Phase 1A.

B. MPO 2045 Long Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan Roadway Evaluation

- 1) **C-03 Big Lake Road: Gauthier Rd to Country Club Road**
 - Originally planned as a 4-lane roadway, staff recommended a 3-lane with all the bells and whistles.
 - Mr. Hollier noted projected ADT and said a 5-lane may be overdesigned, but a 3-lane potentially more reasonable.
 - Mr. Jiles said a mile long project as a 5-lane may be about \$10 million, versus a 3-lane which would be much lower.
 - Mr. Pestello said the 4-lane, based on LaDOTD pursuit for traffic improvements, was to accommodate LNG plants to the south, for import activities and a doubling in size with addition of an export facility. He added Fenstermaker did the traffic study.
 - Mr. Butch Babineaux reiterated that Lake Charles LNG and Magnolia projects were anticipated to occur and LaDOTD requested a traffic study to prepare for those developments. Since the study was 5 years ago, he suggested it be prudent to consider that those projects may come to fruition, so best to consider that when examining this project.
 - Mr. Seth Woods suggested LaDOTD District 7 are working on a Country Club Road study that has been reactivated, along with a

few other projects. LaDOTD will know more in detail about Country Club improvements, etc. However, the study he is referencing does not go all the way to Gauthier. Mr. Jiles stated it needs to add projections in any study.

- Mr. Cardone noted that Country Club has been discussed for many years and the conversation then was about protecting right-of-way.
 - Mr. Hollier noted that if a 4-lane road is not needed in next 30 years, then he suggests narrow it down. He stated, "You don't have to secure right-of-way, it is just as important to have setbacks to reduce costs and increase technical feasibility if 4 lane is needed." Mr. Cardone asked about components of a 3-lane boulevard concept, which Mr. Hollier responded: 2 lane road with center lane, which is not 85-feet wide, and can handle significant amounts of traffic, since current and projected ADT is not beyond 10,000 ADT. LaDOTD does not like 3-lane at a certain ADT, but you can have select turning lanes for access management.
 - Mr. Woods said he does not see this project harming Country Club Road study. He added a 2-lane or 3-lane seems realistic, but 4-lane or 5-lane is not recommended.
 - Mr. Jiles suggested giving Country Club Road projects higher priority since they have higher ADT and more time to consider C-03 Big Lake Road.
 - Mr. Mike Huber wanted to make sure an anticipated traffic circle by Graywood neighborhood is part of the conversation.
 - Mr. Hollier recommended to TAC to advance this project as a tri-partite binding agreement between LaDOTD, LCMPO, Calcasieu Parish and City of Lake Charles.
 - Mr. Woods inquired about what stage would this project be located? Mr. Hollier noted that he wants to clean up 2045 MTP, target projected revenue from all sources into plan, make it fiscally constrained to show working within confines of anticipated revenue.
 - Without a vote, the TAC recommended to make C-03 Big Lake a 3-lane.
- 2) **C-11 Country Club Road: Big Lake Rd to Nelson Rd**
 - No comments.
 - 3) **C-12 Country Club Road: Nelson Road to Jefferson Dr**
 - Mr. Jiles recommended this project as a 5-lane.
 - 4) **C-100 LA 384 Country Club Road: Ihles Road/Elliot Road Intersection**
 - Mr. Jiles stated project has no defined scope. Currently it has turn lanes, but not sure if project is needed as an interim measure, but information needed to establish cost estimate.
 - 5) **N-17 McNeese St Extension: Ihles Road to Weaver Road**
 - Mr. Jiles stated that future of the Ihles Road projects impact the future of this project.
 - 6) **C-18 Gauthier Road: Big Lake Rd to Common St**

- Mr. Jiles stated Gauthier Road goes through multiple jurisdictions with different design standards, and suggests it be broken up into 2 projects.
- 7) **C-89 Ihles Road:** West Prien Lake Road to Country Club Road
- No comments in meeting, but earlier feedback, sent via email, from LaDOTD supports city/parish decision. Similarly, in earlier email, Calcasieu Parish inquired for justification for recommended number of lanes – what section originally recommended in MTP?

Vice Chair John Bruce requested any further comments by TAC members be sent to staff in the next 10 days.

2. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution No. 2022-10 Amending the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and TIP FY 2019-22 Safety Performance Measures

Staff requested TAC recommendation to TPC to adopt and support LaDOTD's Safety Performance measures and targets as Amendment IO to the 2045 MTP and Amendment 30 to TIP FY 2019-22:

- 1 % reduction in fatalities from a 2020 baseline of 771 to a target of 755 in 2022.
- 1 % reduction in serious injuries from a 2020 baseline of 1,370 to a target of 1,343 in 2022.
- 1 % reduction in fatality rate from a 2020 baseline of 1.537 to a target of 1.506 in 2022.
- 1 % reduction in serious injury rate from a 2020 baseline of 2.730 to a target of 2.676 in 2022.
- 1 % reduction in non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries from a 2020 baseline of 378 to a target of 371 in 2022.

Public Review/Hearing process was initiated January 24, 2022.

Mr. Bruce motioned, to adopt 2019-22 Safety Performance Measures, seconded by Mr. Cardone. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

B. Resolution No. 2022-09 Amending Unified Planning Work Program FY 2021-22

Ms. Jamie Gaines requested recommendation to reallocate UPWP funds on work scope budgets to avoid 25% overage in any task.

Mr. Woods motioned, to reallocate funds in the UPWP work tasks to stay below the 25% threshold, seconded by Mr. Bruce. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

C. **ADDENDUM:** Resolution No. 2022-11 Amending TIP 2019-22 Amendment 31 (Aggregate Record Item. No. 62)

Staff requested TAC recommendation to TPC, to the Highway Section of the TIP, to add construction phase of H.014974 I-10/I-210: Fence Repair. The project's total estimated cost with two funding sources is \$929.5K, both include 10% contingencies: Emergency Relief Fund at \$550K (80% Fed Share) in FY 22; NHPP at \$379.5K (80% Fed Share) in FY 22.

Public Review/Hearing process was initiated February 2, 2022.

Mr. Woods motioned, to add construction phase of H.01474 I-10/I-210: Fence Repair to TIP FY 2019-22 in FY 22, seconded by Mr. Bruce. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

3. INFORMATION

A. Calcasieu Parish Local Road Safety Plan DRAFT

Ms. Amber Ashworth shared information on the Calcasieu Parish Local Road Safety Plan, explaining that the state has tasked SWLA Regional Safety Coalition to create a plan for Louisiana parishes that fall within the Louisiana Technical Assistance Program's (LTAP) Top 20 list of crashes location

- The analysis starts with LTAP's LTAP Parish Detailed Road Analysis aka Crash Profile, which is where they identify roads with overrepresented crashes, meaning they have 3 or more crashes and route percentage exceeds parish percentage by more than 50 percent. The second phase of analysis adds a before and year after these crashes. Next part of analysis goes into more detailed about roads listed, since they are more populated and longer routes, so go into segmented to identify actual area of concern.
 - By using this methodology, you are more likely to get funding, versus a route that is not represented in the LTAP Crash Profile
- The idea is to identify locations for municipalities that have repetitive or trending crashes for local roads, then highlighting those to determine contributing factors and then proven effective countermeasures to remedy those crashes.
- This plan is especially effective for jurisdictions without staff to analyze and trend crash data of intersection, locations with roadway departures, and vulnerable user crashes (bike/ped).
- SWLA RSC offers remedies that can be funded 100% through Local Road Safety Program, identifying other sources of funding, or simply integrating identified road segment in their annual Comprehensive Improvement Plan.
- Ms. Ashworth added that the goal of LRSP is identifying low hanging fruit crash priority roads and supporting local road owners in alleviating those road segments
- Draft will be in finished form in March 2022, but still available for local road owners to make comments.
 - EX: If you look at the "Routes by Municipality" page in the document, which are Top 5 in Calcasieu Parish. For instance, if the Top 5 in parish do not fall under one of the 3 focus areas (Intersections, Roadway Departures, or Vulnerable Users) it does not mean we can look to do deeper route analysis to make recommendations for another application for one of these safety funding programs.

B. I-14 Spur Status Report (Fort Polk/Chennault/Port of Lake Charles/Cameron Port

Mr. Jiles shared that staff was looking at Interstate 14 Spur options from Fort Polk to the Cameron Parish, which include 4 alternatives (2 on each side of the Calcasieu River.

- The 2 western alternatives appear to be more likely long shots because they would have to span both the Intracoastal Waterway and the Calcasieu River, so not as feasible.
- The earliest preliminary analysis appears to show that an eastern alternative would be one that generally heads east from Port of Louisiana, toward Creole, then comes close to Chennault, using Hungerford Road north, across the Calcasieu River, then towards Fort Polk.
- Going forward with discussions with Chennault.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.



Nick Pestello
Chair



Michael Hollier
Executive/MPO Director