

# MINUTES

MAY 4, 2022, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM, SEED CENTER, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, ROOM B/C AND VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

## TAC MEMBERS PRESENT (QUORUM)

Nick Pestello (Port of Lake Charles) (Chair)  
Austin Abrahams (City of Sulphur)  
John Cardone (City of Lake Charles)  
Seth Woods (LaDOTD District 7)  
Brian Duplechain (City of Westlake)  
Aaron McDonald (Calcasieu Parish School Board)  
Carlos McCloud (FHWA) (Non-Voting Member)

## LCMPO STAFF

Michael Hollier (Executive/MPO Director)  
Jamie Gaines  
Steve Jiles  
Michael Bernard  
Walter Council  
Ashifur Rahman  
Taylor Lowe  
Justin Habetz

## GUEST

Kelli Van Norman (City of Lake Charles)  
Butch Babineaux (Fenstermaker)  
Tina Athalone (LaDOTD Transit Section)  
Shalin Townsend (Fenstermaker)  
Jessica Pousson (Fenstermaker)

---

### 1. OPENING

#### A. Call to Order Roll Call

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

#### B. Roll Call

Mr. Mike Hollier called Roll:

- Nick Pestello (Port of Lake Charles) (Chair)
- Austin Abrahams (City of Sulphur)
- John Cardone (City of Lake Charles)
- Seth Woods (LaDOTD District 7)
- Brian Duplechain (City of Westlake)
- Aaron McDonald (Calcasieu Parish School Board)

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

**C. Minutes (2/7/22)**

Mr. Seth Woods motioned, to adopt minutes from February 7, 2022 as submitted, seconded by Mr. Austin Abrahams. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

---

**1. OLD BUSINESS**

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

- 1) H.013870 Enterprise Boulevard Overlay Reconstruction in City of Lake Charles
  - Mr. Council noted discussion between D.W. Jessen consultants and LaDOTD has occurred regarding hydraulics.
  - FHWA will allow the drainage elements to move forward, as the road's original design, has made it imperative to include drainage for the integrity and resiliency of the project.
  - The total cost does not appear to be changing at all according to LaDOTD and consultants.
  - It appears at this point of the project evaluation, the City of Lake Charles and LCMPO will not lose any funding.
- 2) H. 014960 Calcasieu Parish Overlays Phase 1A
  - Mr. Council stated projects are on track and checking consultants for review comments.
- 3) H.011839 Henning Dr/Weekly Rd
  - Mr. Council stated that City of Sulphur has agreed to take on this overlay restriping project for FY 22. Total cost \$1.7M (including \$348K local match).
  - Vote to add to project FY 22 is under New Business Item A
- 4) Recommendations on TIP Projects
  - Mr. Hollier noted that H.007122 Myrtle Springs Road was being evaluated, with the City of Westlake, for entry into the next TIP FY 2023-26 FY in FY 23.

**B. MPO 2045 Long Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan Roadway (Southwest Lake Charles)**

Mr. Council requested final recommendation action on the Southwest Lake Charles projects, for the following:

- 1) **C-11 Country Club:** Big Lake Road to Nelson Road
- 2) **C-12 Country Club/University Ave:** Nelson Road to Jefferson Dr
- 3) **C-03 Big Lake Road:** Gauthier Rd to Country Club Road
- 4) **C-100 LA 384 Country Club Road:** Ihles Road/Elliot Road Intersection
- 5) **C-18 Gauthier Road:** Big Lake Rd to Common St
- 6) **C-89 Ihles Road:** West Prien Lake Road to Country Club Road

Mr. Austin Abrahams motioned, for final 2045 MTP recommendation to the TPC, to amend and retain the Southwest Lake Charles projects, seconded by Mr. Seth Woods. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

---

## 2. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Resolution 2022-12 Amending Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) FY 2019-22 Amendment 32 (Aggregate Record Item No. 62)

Staff requested action to move H.011839 Henning Dr/Weekly Rd Overlay, as construction phase, funded using STP50-200K funds at \$1.265M including 10% contingency (80% Fed Share of \$1.012M; 20% Local Match of \$0.253M), from FY 23 to FY 22. Public Review/Hearing process begins 4/29/22.

Mr. Woods motioned, to recommend to TPC, adoption of H.011839 to TIP FY 22, seconded by Mr. John Cardone. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

### B. MPO 2045 Long Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan Roadway Evaluation (Chennault International Airport Area)

Mr. Steve Jiles requested final recommendation action on the Chennault International Airport adjacent projects, for the following:

- 1) C-04 Broad Street: I-210 to LA 397
- 2) S-02 Senator J Bennett Johnston Ave: Merganser St to Avenue
- 3) C-33 J. Bennett Johnston Ave: Broad St to Merganser St
- 4) C-14 E Prien Lake Rd: LA 14 to Ward Line
- 5) C-58 LA 397 Railroad Crossing
- 6) C-59 LA 397 Ward Line Rd: LA 14 to US 90
- 7) C-95 E Prien Lake Rd Realignment: to E Ward Line Rd

Mr. Woods motioned, for final 2045 MTP recommendation to TPC, to amend the Chennault International Airport adjacent projects, by assembling them all with S-02 Senator J. Bennett Johnston Ave's traffic study using its \$350K cost as a starting point, seconded by Mr. Abrahams. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

### C. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY 2023 – 26 Project Call Submissions

Mr. Council explained that staff was close to finalizing a Project Call matrix document, which should be seamless and easy to use during that project scoring meeting.

- Mr. Hollier added that a year earlier, the TAC and TPC indicated they wanted congestion to be a focus area, however, few of the Project Call submissions deal with relieving congestion. Mr. Hollier recommended the TAC consider the concept of a Traffic Management Center, which has precedent in nearby similar sized metropolitan areas, by monitoring and mitigating traffic congestion.
- Mr. Pestello mentioned that a system like that may be useful in directing trucks to and from the Port of Lake Charles

---

## 2. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Resolution 2022-12 Amending Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) FY 2019-22 Amendment 32 (Aggregate Record Item No. 62)

Staff requested action to move H.011839 Henning Dr/Weekly Rd Overlay, as construction phase, funded using STP50-200K funds at \$1.265M including 10% contingency (80% Fed Share of \$1.012M; 20% Local Match of \$0.253M), from FY 23 to FY 22. Public Review/Hearing process begins 4/29/22.

Mr. Woods motioned, to recommend to TPC, adoption of H.011839 to TIP FY 22, seconded by Mr. John Cardone. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

### B. MPO 2045 Long Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan Roadway Evaluation (Chennault International Airport Area)

Mr. Steve Jiles requested final recommendation action on the Chennault International Airport adjacent projects, for the following:

- 1) **C-04 Broad Street:** I-210 to LA 397
- 2) **S-02 Senator J Bennett Johnston Ave:** Merganser St to Avenue
- 3) **C-33 J. Bennett Johnston Ave:** Broad St to Merganser St
- 4) **C-14 E Prien Lake Rd:** LA 14 to Ward Line
- 5) **C-58 LA 397 Railroad Crossing**
- 6) **C-59 LA 397 Ward Line Rd:** LA 14 to US 90
- 7) **C-95 E Prien Lake Rd Realignment:** to E Ward Line Rd

Mr. Woods motioned, for final 2045 MTP recommendation to TPC, to amend the Chennault International Airport adjacent projects, by assembling them all with S-02 Senator J. Bennett Johnston Ave's traffic study using its \$350K cost as a starting point, seconded by Mr. Abrahams. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

### C. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY 2023 – 26 Project Call Submissions

Mr. Council explained that staff was close to finalizing a Project Call matrix document, which should be seamless and easy to use during that project scoring meeting.

- Mr. Hollier added that a year earlier, the TAC and TPC indicated they wanted congestion to be a focus area, however, few of the Project Call submissions deal with relieving congestion. Mr. Hollier recommended the TAC consider the concept of a Traffic Management Center, which has precedent in nearby similar sized metropolitan areas, by monitoring and mitigating traffic congestion.
- Mr. Pestello mentioned that a system like that may be useful in directing trucks to and from the Port of Lake Charles

**D. Resolution 2022-13 Adopting Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) FY 2022-23**

Mr. Council requested TAC recommendation, to the TPC, to adopt UPWP FY 23.

Mr. Abrahams motioned, to recommend to TPC, adoption of UPWP FY 23, seconded by Mr. Woods. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

**E. Southwest Louisiana Transportation Safety Initiative**

Mr. Hollier stated that the Regional Safety Coalition contract was terminated to shift gears, focusing instead on priorities that need to be addressed. He noted an FHWA emphasis on infrastructure and operations. The revised staff approach to transportation safety will engage law enforcement, securing private resources, and adding internal funds to addresses causes of crashes.

**F. Freight Study and Direction – Ashifur Rahman**

Mr. Ashifur Rahman's freight study presentation postponed to next TAC meeting.

---

**3. INFORMATION**

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

Mr. Jiles noted that there will be a virtual meeting with Kimley-Horn consultants on the proposed I-14 spur towards from Fort Polk to Beaumont, TX, with staff engaged to promote consideration of a spur from Fort Polk to Port of Cameron.


**B. Southwest Louisiana Rail Study Plan**


Mr. Hollier mentioned staff working towards a funded rail study plan.

---

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Abrahams motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Woods. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nic Pestello  
Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Hollier  
Executive/MPO Director