

MINUTES

JUNE 28, 2022, 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM, SEED CENTER, 2ND FLOOR, ROOM D/E

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT (QUORUM)

Nick Pestello (Port of Lake Charles) (Chair)
John Bruce (Calcasieu Parish) (Vice Chair) (Proxy was Ethan Smith)
Heath Allen (Lake Charles Regional Airport)
John Cardone (City of Lake Charles)
Seth Woods (LaDOTD District 7)
Kevin Melton (Chennault International Airport)
Dawn Sholmire (LaDOTD) (Non-Voting Member)
Tina Athalone (LaDOTD) (Non-Voting Member)

LCMPO STAFF

Michael Hollier (Executive/MPO Director)
Jamie Gaines
Steve Jiles
Michael Bernard
Walter Council
Justin Habetz
Tucker Deshotel

GUEST

Al Hoover (Lake Charles Transit)
Jessica Pousson (Fenstermaker)
Butch Babineaux (Fenstermaker)
Nether Clayton (Lake Charles Transit)

1. OPENING

A. Call to Order Roll Call

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

B. Roll Call

Mr Hollier called roll:

Nick Pestello (Port of Lake Charles) (Chair)
John Bruce (Calcasieu Parish) (Vice Chair) (Proxy was Ethan Smith)
Heath Allen (Lake Charles Regional Airport)
John Cardone (City of Lake Charles)
Seth Woods (LaDOTD District 7)
Kevin Melton (Chennault International Airport)

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

C. Minutes (5/4/22), (3/10/21), (3/22/21)

Mr. Seth Woods motioned to adopt minutes from the following TAC meetings, seconded John Cardone.

D. Addendum Items for Agenda

Mr. Walter Council requested the following agenda items be added.

- 1) New Business: Agenda Item A - H.005967 Nelson Rd TIP Amendment 33
- 2) New Business: Agenda Item B – Lake Charles Transit TIP Amendment 34
- 3) Information: Agenda Item D – Update LCMPO Website

Mr. John Cardone motioned, seconded by Mr. Seth Woods. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

2. OLD BUSINESS

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

- 1) H.013870 Enterprise Boulevard Overlay Reconstruction in City of Lake Charles (CoLC)
 - Mr. Council shared, as of result material cost increases and general inflation, the total cost of Enterprise Rd increased by \$418.5K. LaDOTD requested to know if LCMPO wanted to use STP<200k or 100% local funding from City of Lake Charles (CoLC) to cover that deficit.
 - Mr. John Cardone indicated CoLC would be able to cover the additional overage of \$418.5K deficit.
- 2) H.014370 Post Oak Rad in City of Sulphur
 - Mr. Council shared, as of result material cost increases and general inflation, the total cost of Enterprise Rd increased by \$310,000. LaDOTD requested to know if LCMPO wanted to use STP<200k or 100% local funding from City of Sulphur to cover that deficit.
 - Mr. Austin Abrahams was not available to comment, so will follow-up later.
- 3) H. 014960 Calcasieu Parish Overlays Phase 1A
 - No update.

B. Call for Projects TIP 2023 - 26

Mr. Hollier requested final recommendation action on several pre-programmed commitments and other potential projects, including the source of funding at total cost of \$7.0 using STP<200K funds, for TIP FY 2023 – 26.

- 1) Motorist Assistance Program (M.A.P.)
 - Annually for \$412.5K using STP<200K funds: \$1.65M (\$1.320M Fed Share; \$330K LaDOTD Local Match)
- 2) Planning, Training and Research
 - FY 23 using STP< 200K funds: \$100K (\$80K Fed Share; \$20K LaDOTD Local Match)
- 3) Myrtle Springs Rd (H. 007122)

- FY 24 using STP<200K funds: \$3.3M (\$2.64M Fed Share; \$660K City of Westlake Local Match)
- 4) IMCAL MPO Planning Services
 - MPO major project supplement using STP<200K funds: \$1.4M (\$1.12M Fed Share; \$280K Local Match)
- 5) Chennault Area Traffic Study (CATS)
 - Multi-project traffic study for consideration using STP<200K funds: \$350K (\$280K Fed Share; \$70K Local Match)
 - Mr. Kevin Melton and Mr. John Cardone agreed that it is advisable to create a 5-way funding split between Chennault, CoLC, SOWELA, Sheriff's Office, and Calcasieu Parish for costs.
- 6) Long Range Transportation Plan
 - Requested for FY 23, using multiple funding sources, in TIP FY 2023-26: \$500K
 - \$500K explained:
 - \$250K (100%) from LaDOTD
 - \$250K (80%/20%) using STP<200K
- 7) Westwood Rd @ National Dr/Hudson Dr
 - City of Westlake/DOTD project explained for \$5.0M:
 - \$3.1M (100%) using state safety funds
 - \$1.9M (\$1.52M Fed Share; \$380K City of Westlake Local Match) using STP<200K

Mr. Cardone motioned to recommend these projects seconded by Mr. Melton. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 2022-16 Amending Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) FY 2019-22 Amendment 33 (Aggregate Record Item No. 65)

Staff requested action to add utility phase of H.005967 Nelson Rd EXT & BRIDGE. The project's total utility phase estimated cost is \$6.995M (80% Fed Share of \$5.596M; 20% LaDOTD Local Match of \$1.399M) in FY 22. Public Review/Hearing process begins 6/30/22.

Mr. Woods motioned, to recommend to TPC, adoption of H.005967 Nelson Rd EXT & BRIDGE in FY 22 of the TIP FY 2019 -22, seconded by Mr. Kevin Melton. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

B. MPO 2022-17 Amending Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) FY 2019-22 Amendment 34 (Aggregate Record Item No. 66)

Staff requesting action to add Lake Charles Transit's various capital and operations projects for overall total cost of \$3.008M using 5307 grant (62% Fed Share of \$1.888M; 37% City of Lake Charles Local Match of \$1.120M) in FY 22. Public Review/Hearing process begins 6/30/22.

Mr. Cardone motioned to recommend to TPC, adoption of Lake Charles Transit capital and operations projects in FY 22 of TIP FY 2019 -22, seconded by Mr. Heath Allen Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

C. Transportation Management Center

Mr. Hollier recommended consideration to bring to the TPC a Traffic Management Center (TMC), by evaluating, cost estimating and organizing potentially a proposal for this type of effort.

- At previous TAC/TPC congestion was highlighted as a concern and a TMC is a traffic mitigation tool, specifically for regional freight.
- Mr. Hollier has spoken with District 7, which indicated a TMC proposal that never materialized. There is a nearby local TMC in Lafayette estimated cost to build and operate is \$20M and \$500K, respectively.
- Right now, at this proposal stage, there is no critical concern for a location, but instead determining management and operations.
- Management could be IMCAL or another entity.
- Mr. Melton inquired if it meant billing, programs, cameras, personnel, etc, which Mr. Hollier affirmed.
- Mr. Pestello suggested the goal is to tie in existing city and state traffic data. Mr. Hollier provided example of ambulances being able to control traffic lights or a major shutdown or a major lane, lights can be re-programmed to prevent bottlenecks.
- Mr. Pestello believed TAC supported Mr. Hollier pursuit of further movement of the TMC to the TPC and he will act on the proposal.

D. MPO 2045 Long Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan Roadway Evaluation (East Sulphur)

Mr. Steve Jiles requested action on the East Sulphur projects in 2045 MTP, and received TAC final recommendation modifications that included the following

- 1) C-82 US 90 (Napoleon St): Post Oak Rd to I-10
 - a. Existing Project Plan: Capacity/Widen to 4 lanes for \$44.8M
 - b. Final Recommendation:
 - Retain project plan improvement
 - Add Bikeway for \$1.3M
 - Add Roundabouts: US 90 @ N. Hazel St; US 90 @ Center Ave; US 90 @ Prater Rd (no costs available)

- 2) C-05 Burton St: Claiborne St to LA 108 (Cities Service Hwy)
 - a. Existing Project Plan: Capacity/Widen to 4 lanes for \$17.8M
 - b. Final Recommendations:
 - Reduce widening to 3 lanes for \$17.8M
 - Add Roundabouts: E. Burton St @ Maple St/Lewis St; E. Burton St @ N. Post Oak Rd (no costs available)
 - LaDOTD District 7 wanted to remove
 - Defer project final recommendation until next TAC meeting.

- 3) M-14 Prater Rd: Maplewood Dr to Stephanie Dr
 - a. Existing Project Plan: Maintenance/Rehab and reconstruction (patch, cold plane, and overlay) for \$1.95M
 - b. Final Recommendations:
 - Add 3 lanes for \$2.95M
 - Add Bikeways for \$590K
 - Add Roundabout: Prater Rd at Maplewood Dr (no cost available)

- 4) N-23 Prater Rd Ext: LA 108 (Cities Service Hwy) to I-10 Services Rd
 - a. Existing Project Plan: New location/New 2 lane roadway, bridge, and reconstruction for \$51.8M
 - b. Final Recommendations:
 - Remove from 2045 MTP

- 5) C-39 LA 108 (Cities Services Hwy): From I-10 to South 1.5 Miles
 - a. Existing Project Plan: Capacity/Widen to 4 lanes
 - b. Final Recommendations:
 - Retain project plan improvement
 - Increase cost to \$2M

- 6) C-51 LA 27 (S. Beglis Pkwy): I-10 to LA 108
 - a. Existing Project Plan: New location/New 4-lane roadway for \$18M
 - b. Final Recommendations:
 - Retain project plan improvement
 - Move to Stage II

- 7) C-101 LA 1256 Hackberry Hwy at Carlyss Dr Intersection
 - a. Existing: Capacity/Intersection improvement for \$4M
 - b. Final Recommendations:
 - Retain project plan improvement
 - Support the implementation of Calcasieu Parish Transportation Initiative project
 - Add Roundabout: LA 1256 Hackberry Hwy at Carlyss Dr (no cost available)

- 8) N-71 LA 108 Parallel Connector: LA 27 to Bayou D'Inde Rd
 - a. Existing: New location/New 2 lane local roadway for \$10.3M
 - b. Final Recommendations:
 - Remove from 2045 MTP

- 9) N-54 McNair St Ext: Dead End to Wright Rd
 - a. Existing: New location/New 2 lane local roadway \$1.5M
 - b. Final Recommendations:
 - Remove from 2045 MTP
 - LaDOTD District 7 wanted to retain
 - Defer project final recommendation until next TAC meeting

Mr. Heath Allen motioned to recommend, to the TPC, all the presented adjustments to the 2045 MTP, except to defer recommendations until TAC meeting for #5 C-39 L A 108 (Cities Service Highway) and #9 N-54 McNair St Ext in East Sulphur, seconded by Mr. Seth Woods. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

E. MPO 2045 Long Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan Roadway Evaluation (North Lake Charles)

Mr. Steve Jiles requested action on the North Lake Charles projects in 2045 MTP, and received TAC final recommendation modifications that included the following

- 1) C-77 Sallier St: Marine St to Lake St
 - a. Existing Project Plan: Capacity/Widen to 4 lanes for \$12.84M
 - b. Final Recommendations:
 - Remove from 2045 MTP

- 2) C-78 Sallier St at Ryan St Intersection
 - a. Existing Project Plan: Capacity/Intersection improvements for \$2.0M
 - b. Final Recommendations:
 - Retain project plan improvement
 - Add Bikeway for \$14K
 - Increase cost to \$6M??

- 3) M-01 12th St: LA 385 to 1st Ave
 - a. Existing Project Plan: Maintenance/Rehabilitation, reconstruction and overlay for \$3M
 - b. Final Recommendations:
 - Retain project improvement
 - Add Bikeway for \$345K

- 4) C-67 Moeling St: Enterprise Blvd to US 171
 - a. Existing Project Plan: Capacity/Widen to 3 lanes for \$15M
 - b. Final Recommendations:
 - Retain project plan improvement
 - Add Bikeway for \$205K

- 5) C-29 I-10 UPRR Overpass (Lake Charles)
 - a. Existing Project Plan: Capacity/Widen 4 lanes to 6 lanes for \$50M
 - b. Final Recommendations:
 - Retain project plan improvement
 - Recommend project name change

- 6) C-71 Opelousas St: Enterprise Blvd to US 171 (MLK Hwy)
 - a. Existing Project Plan: Capacity/Widen to 4 lanes for \$7.1M
 - b. Final Recommendations:

- Remove from 2045 MTP
- 7) C-17 Fitzenreiter Rd: Goos Blvd to US 171
- a. Existing Project Plan: Capacity/Widen to 4 lanes for \$6M
 - b. Final Recommendations:
 - Reduce project plan from 4 lanes to 3 lanes
 - Increase cost to \$8M
 - Move to Stage I
 - Add Bikeway for \$365K
- 8) N-06 Enterprise Blvd: Moeling St to Fitzenreiter Rd
- a. Existing: New location//New 4-lane roadway for \$15.7M
 - b. Final Recommendations:
 - Increase project cost estimate to \$30M

Mr. John Cardone motioned to recommend, to the TPC, all the presented adjustments to the 2045 MTP, for projects in the northern and central part of Lake Charles, seconded by Mr. Seth Woods. Mr. Pestello requested a vote on the motion which passed unanimously.

F. Southwest Louisiana Transportation Safety Initiative

Mr. Hollier stated that there is re-organization phase in the transportation safety aspect of the agency, by meeting with law enforcement organizations (LEO) and other stakeholders to identify safety corridors of concern, seek relevant safety projects to implement, and forming a crash reduction task force with LEOs.

- 50+ fatalities for Calcasieu Parish in 2021; Pedestrian crashes that seem to correlate with bad lighting spots.
- The task force could be a rapid response, along with other instruments to mitigate problem as they are being identified. Potentially looking at district attorneys to be part of task force.
- The existing Regional Safety Coalition was removed to refocus and follow through with more action-oriented programs.

4. INFORMATION

A. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) FY 2022-23

Mr. Council and Mr. Hollier shared that a new grant, Regional Mobility Management, will fund a pilot program that two other MPOs in the state received. Mr. Hollier is anxious to see if this grant can help agencies continue their work more efficiently.

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

Mr. Jiles shared updated information from recent virtual meetings with multiple stakeholders, including Fort Polk/DOD, LaDOTD, and FHWA, and Kimberley-Horne consultants to identify a suitable route from the base to Beaumont, TX, which would traverse MPO area. This present an opportunity for a spur for the proposed I-14, which Mr. Jiles identified 4 potential routes, 2 on each side of the Calcasieu River, from the base to Cameron Parish ports.

- Mr. Hollier noted a key take away from the virtual meetings was that necessity for Fort Polk deployment activities to be near interstate highways.
- More information will be incoming.

C. Southwest Louisiana Rail Study and Plan

Mr. Hollier explained that Marion “Butch” Fox Southwest Louisiana Rail Study and Plan, acknowledges her efforts in Beauregard Parish to support rail. The study should take approximately 2-years to complete. Some of the key points of the study:

- Inventory of current and unused rail lines, along with operation of the rail lines.
 - Some of the abandoned rail lines has led to some current legal entanglements.
- Demands and needs by the operators in the region. Some examples include:
 - Cameron Parish is seeking rail connections. There was recommendation from the Lake Area Industrial Alliance to assist for some type of accessibility to LNG facilities.
 - Beauregard and Allen Parishes look at rail as their ports and want to see how IMCAL can help facilitate those requests.

D. LCMPO Website

Ms. Jamie Gaines shared updates to the LCMPO website which can linked at imcal.la, which included ability for public input and added minutes/agendas going back to 2016.

5. ADJOURNMENT

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



Nick Pestello
Chair

Michael Hollier
Executive/MPO Director