



**MINUTES**

**LAKE CHARLES URBANIZED AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE and  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
WHITE BOARD METING**

**April 28, 2016 AT 9:00 AM – 12 PM  
SEED CENTER, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, ROOM B/C  
4310 RYAN ST., LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA, 70605**

**MEMBERS PRESENT (QUORUM):**

Mayor Christopher Duncan (City of Sulphur) (Chair)  
Mayor Randy Roach (City of Lake Charles) (Vice Chair)  
Mayor Bob Hardey (City of Westlake)  
Wes Crain (Calcasieu Parish Police Jury)  
Chandra Bondzie (FHWA Non-Voting Member)

**TAC Members:**

John Cardone  
Tim Conner  
Dan Broussard (DOTD Non-Voting Member)

**GUESTS:**

Mary Elliot Bergeron (LADOTD)  
Connie Porter Betts (LADOTD)  
Tanya Bankston (LADOTD)  
Mike Huber (City of Lake Charles)  
Stacy Dowden (City of Lake Charles)  
Dawn R. Sholmire (LADOTD)  
Brandon Buckner (FHWA)

**IMCAL STAFF:**

Cheri Soileau (Executive/MPO Director)  
Walter Council (Transportation Planner III)  
Ben Magallon (Transportation Planner II)

**Roll Call**

Mayor Christopher Duncan called the meeting to order. Mr. Walter Council reported a quorum was present. Mr. Council explains that this was officially a TPC meeting, but TAC members were welcome to participate in the dialogue. It is encouraged that MPOs

spend money cause although the STP<200K is obligated, DOTD has to program based off of what they are told annually from U.S. DOT via new Congressional mandates.

**I. Introduction of Cheri Soileau as IMCAL Executive Director/MPO Director**

**II. White Board Meeting**

**A.** Dawn Sholmire from LADOTD presided over meeting. Administrative modifications were made as a result of the dialogue between the attendees. (SEE Appendix A).

**B.** The TIP is over programmed, therefore, no new projects are to be programmed in next TIP cycle for FY 20 (2019-20), unless something moves out. The project that encompasses West Prien Lake Rd/Ihles Road (Sale Rd to Country Club Rd) does not have a project number, nor will it be included in the current (FY 2015-18) TIP cycle.

**C. Some Key Points Made During the Whiteboard Meeting**

- Small (STP<200K) MPOs, such as Lake Charles Urbanized Area, receive an average annual allocation of \$3.5 million in the TIP
- The Responsible Charge (RC) is the individual employed by the sponsoring Responsible Entity (EX: City of Westlake), whose job is to complete the Stage Zero application/RC form on a specific project, plus be the point of contact for a LADOTD project manager. LADOTD facilitates the project through the necessary federal regulations.
- The MPO staff is not the RC or Responsibility Entity, but role is to be knowledgeable of the phases (EX: environmental, engineering, construction, etc) and parties involved.
- New LADOTD guidelines require that an Internal Control Questionnaire (ICQ) form, Stage Zero application and RC form are completed before a STP<200K project is awarded a project number. The project number makes an STP<200K project official in the eyes of LADOTD, and means their personnel is actively working on it.
- Once a project makes it to the TIP, work should begin immediately, so a maximum number of projects should have a scope and RC within the 4-year TIP phase. Every TPC meeting should feature an update/report out, whereby, an RC communicates the status of the project (EX: We are at this stage on the project; we've done this much; we have this much left). LADOTD could do the same update/report out at TPC meetings, plus showcase letting of various projects, all of which improves competency among pertinent parties.

**III. A. Review and Adoption of Minutes from TPC Meeting (March 23, 2016)**

Mr. Wes Crain motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Mayor Randy Roach. Motion carried unopposed.



**B. Review and Adoption of Minutes from TPC Special Meeting (April 5, 2016)**

Mayor Randy Roach motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Crain. Motion carried unopposed.

- IV. Information Only:** The MPO had received a letter, based on a TPC meeting stipulation on March 23, 2016, that the City of Lake Charles' Attorney Corey Rubin provide a final letter of confidence expressing no ethical concerns with the non-competing temporary consultant contract for J.D. Allen, on an as needed basis for \$25,000

**Information Only:** Calcasieu Transportation Initiative is explained via Powerpoint, by Tim Conner, the TAC Chair. The initiative goals is to advance capacity enhancements on five identified arterial routes. The need for the initiative is based on future inadequacies on state routes, increased population and growth impacts, along with an expectation of increased local funding participation.

- V. Request for Adoption:** Calcasieu Transportation Initiative Resolution. After viewing presentation of the parish wide initiative, inquiry to see if TPC would adopt a resolution of support or let it go to next TAC meeting for review and recommendation, then to next TPC meeting for adoption. A resolution will allow the parish the ability to display MPO backing, when introducing initiative to Baton Rouge legislators and state transportation officials. (Tim Conner, TAC Chair). Wes Crain move to have the TAC review the Calcasieu Transportation Initiative first, then bring it back to the TPC for adoption. Bob Hardey seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

- VI. LA DOTD Secretary Shawn Wilson:** Mr. Council explains that the Secretary will be in Lake Charles on Monday, May 9, 2016, which was initiated from dialogue from January 2016, to visit the port. He is supposedly visiting Sasol's campus in the morning, and may be able to meet with stakeholders from 12 noon to 6 pm. Mayor Roach suggest it is helpful if he is briefed on all projects currently underway, with regards to billion dollars of industrial investment. Mayor Roach and Mr. Crain recommend he visit GTX and Sasol adjacent and nearby roadways. It is suggested that a Chennault Tour be waived if there is not enough time, in favor of seeing the Port of Lake Charles, which was the original site that was to be visited. Mayor Roach will call Chennault. Furthermore, renting a van and RSVP for a luncheon was mentioned.

- VII. Information Only:** Mr. Council mentioned the possibility of hiring a Traffic/Civil Engineer, using PL funds from the UPWP. Staff would discuss details with partners at DOTD and FHWA.

- VIII. Information Only:** Mr. Council, Mr. Magallon, and explain that staff is preparing a preliminary scope to utilize FTA Transit funds to conduct a study on the potential of implementing a rideshare program that could help with some of the congestion in the

short term across the I-210 bridge. These would use current FY 2015-16 funds, \$28K, to rollover into FY 2016-17. This may include hiring an intern or using a consultant. In order to rollover funds into the next fiscal year, we have begun the contract extension process with LA DOTD Public Transit Section. If approved we will have 6 months, beginning in July 1, 2016 to use the 28K.

## **IX. Open Discussion**

- Mr. Brandon Buckner, FHWA personnel, mentioned in response to Section V, the CTI must show regional benefit. Questions such as are they in the MTP, do they conflict with MTP, or do they conflict with the TIP, etc. He explains that when doing a review of an initiative like this, that is protocol for committing to a resolution. He said he would send an email to Mr. Council, with pertinent questions. Wes Crain expressed the importance of the MPO staff translating pertinent information from LADOTD and FHWA to the MPO committee members.
- Mayor Roach expressed it would be worthwhile for present FHWA and LADOTD personnel to participate in the Secretary Shawn Wilson visit to the area on May 9, 2016.
- LADOTD personnel inquired about what the industry was doing to contribute, beyond constructing a \$100 billion worth of industrial facilities.
  - Ms. Soileau said they are doing some public-private partnership projects.
  - Mr. Crain noted how concessions were made by the state for the huge industrial expansion, and how unfathomable for any engineer, planner, or elected official to expect to know how to deal with housing, transportation, and other issues in such a compressed time frame.
  - Ms. Bondzie talked about the typical conventions of corporations is noting the taxes and income provided to citizens as their contribution to a community. Furthermore, she states that it is also how they negotiate between regions, inquiring about incentives to relocate.
  - Mayor Roach mentioned a traffic study, plus explains how development happened incrementally, but by the time it all accumulated it was massive. He also states the continued growth as the main facilities attract other smaller related businesses, but also that some companies have delayed some projects. He remarks that the point is whether industry would work with LADOTD, and he believes they would.
  - Mayor Bob Hardey talks about congestion, that in a mile and a half, it takes 45 minutes to get to the interstate, in Westlake. He also notes how Sasol is putting in \$35 million worth of road investments in Westlake. Mayor Hardey states that the expanded industry has provided an impetus to add to SOWELA's campus
  - Mr. J.D. Allen mentions that industry are asked to do a lot, and they do conduct transportation related studies. He mentions, as a planner, that while MPO is good for mid-range and long range planning, it is tsunami of



population and growth impacts that may need increased attention from the state, especially as the MPO only receives \$3.5 million in STP<200K funds. Essentially, it is a process as usual approach, in an extraordinary situation. - Tim Conner states the CTI may not truly reflect what is happening in the area, because the \$100 billion investment is beyond what they anticipated when creating that plan.

- Chandra Bondzie mentions that the MPO can update the MTP at any time, even between the 4 years, and in the update we can explicitly talk about why the enormous amount of new development, news businesses, changes to land use, transportation needs, then go back and conduct public outreach, traffic analysis, coordination with stakeholders, etc.

## **X. Adjournment**

Mr. Crain motioned to adjourn, Mr. Hardey seconded.

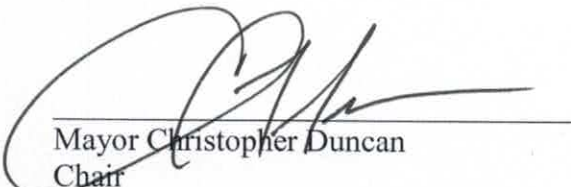
# Appendix A

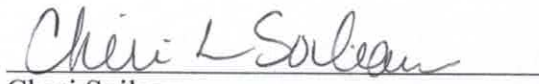
## Administrative Modifications from the Whiteboard Meeting

Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for Lake Charles					
Record of Adoptions and Amendments					
Record Item No.	Project No.	Resolution No.	Date Modified	TPC Viewing Date	Description of Change
51	L.000062	Administrative Change	5/12/2016	5/25/2016	Increased the total cost of the MAP program from \$184K to \$666.3K, with 50/50 fed share in FY 2016
52	H.010916	Administrative Change	5/12/2016	5/25/2016	LA DOTD has changed the total cost of the Prien Lake Re-Decking and Safety Improvements from \$29M to \$33M, with 90/10 fed share FY 2016.
53	H.007130	Administrative Change	5/12/2016	5/25/2016	Construction phase moved from FY 2016 to FY 2017.
54	H.007113	Administrative Change	5/12/2016	5/25/2016	Engineering and construction phase moved from FY 2016 to FY 2017.

Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for Lake Charles									
FY 16 (OCT '15 – SEP '16)									
Project No.	Route - Project Name	Project Description / Limits	Proposed Improvement	Work Phase	Est. Cost (thousands)	10% contingency	Est. Cost of Construction + Construction Contingencies	Federal Share (thousands)	Fund Source
L.000062	MAP	Motor Assistance Patrol	Motorist assistance in case of breakdown or accident		666.3		666.3	333.15	STP < 200K and DOTD
H.010916	Prien Lake Re-Decking & Safety Improvements	I-210 Bridge	Redeck and replace rail on main spans. Establish composite action and provide safety inspection walkway for main girders.	C	33,000.00	3,300.00	36,300.00	32,670.00	NHPP

Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for Lake Charles									
FY 17 (OCT '16 – SEP '17)									
Project No.	Route - Project Name	Project Description / Limits	Proposed Improvement	Work Phase	Est. Cost (thousands)	10% contingency	Est. Cost of Construction + Construction Contingencies	Federal Share (thousands)	Fund Source
H.007130	John Stine Road	Myrtle Springs to Foster	Widening	C	6,050	605.0	6,655.0	4,840	STP < 200k
H.007113	J. Bennet Johnston Avenue	Overlay	Overlay	C	580	58.0	638.0	510.4	STP < 200k
				E	40.00		40.00	32.00	STP < 200k

  
 Mayor Christopher Duncan  
 Chair

  
 Cheri Soileau  
 Executive Director/MPO Director