

MINUTES

**LAKE CHARLES URBANIZED AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC)
JANUARY 14, 2016 AT 3:30 PM
2ND FLOOR, BOARD ROOM
SEED CENTER
4310 RYAN ST., LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA 70605**

MEMBERS PRESENT (QUORUM):

Mayor Christopher Duncan (City of Sulphur) (Chair)
Mayor Bob Hardey (City of Westlake)
Wes Crain (Calcasieu Parish Police Jury)
Todd Landry (DOTD District 7)

GUESTS:

Dan Broussard (DOTD Planning Section)
Chandra Bondzie (FHWA – Louisiana Division)
Brandon Buckner (FHWA – Louisiana Division)
Dawn Sholemire (DOTD Planning Section)
J.D. Allen (Alliance Transportation Group)

IMCAL STAFF:

Jerry Jones (Interim Executive Director)
Walter Council (Transportation Planner III)

ROLL CALL

Mr. Tim Conner called the meeting to order. Mr. Walter Council reported a quorum was present.

I. Review of Minutes from Last Meeting (August 18, 2015)

Mr. Wes Crain motioned to accept the minutes, then seconded by Mr. Todd Landry.

II. New Business

A. Notification of Administrative Modifications to the TIP

Mr. Walter Council explained that the next step was to put in the TIP and send to the LADOTD. Ms. Dawn Sholemire just said the changes were made and can be made without MPO vote.

B. Request for TIP Amendment IV

Request to approve TIP Amendment IV, regarding engineering phase of the cable barrier on I-210 (H.010865) and the construction phase for re-decking of I-210 (H.010916). Mr. Crain motioned to approve Amendment IV, Mayor Bob Hardey seconded. The motion carried unopposed.

C. MAP Program

The TAC has already recommended the need for these trucks. Ms. Sholemire notes there has been a renegotiation of the contract. The new contract would be \$740,000, with the MPO paying half of that amount. It would include 2 patrol trucks, running from 5:30 am to 7:30 pm. The trucks would only be leased, not purchased. Also, the contract would include trained drivers, trained supervisors, along with necessary equipment. Mayor Duncan stated there may already be a truck available for I-210 re-decking construction. It was decided that more information was needed to determine how this truck, meant exclusively for I-210 project, would intersect with this renegotiated contract. Ms. Sholemire states that as soon as numbers are available, she will share them.

D. Advertising for joint MPO Director/IMCAL Director

Mayor Duncan suggests Transportation Planner II advertisement be removed from the minutes. Mr. J.D. Allen states he has talked with three applicants for the Executive Director position, whose applications Mr. Stuart Moss and Mayor Hardey have also examined. For various reasons, each of these applicants would likely not be able to serve. Mr. Allen mentioned he had spoken with potential applicants at the 2016 Transportation Research Board conference in Washington, DC. Mr. Jerry Jones mentions that they have advertised the job to over 350 MPOs, as well as to LinkedIn. Mr. Allen wants to send job opening notice to a free listserv website.

Mr. Jones suggest TPC re-examines funding for Director, believing if you obtain an Executive Director the organization will eventually be in the predicament it currently occupies. He elaborates that you need a "salesman with a conscience" type qualities for IMCAL Director, because rural constituents appeal to that more. In contrast, Mr. Jones believes the MPO Director is fine to be more technical. Mayor Roach states the positions were combined for financial reasons, and that in order to have separate positions, would need member organization's financial support. Mr. Crain believes the positions should remain together.

Mr. Allen remarks the funding ratio was 70/30, IMCAL to member organizations, with the former having enough funds to pay for separate positions. He states that MPO has money, but IMCAL doesn't have the membership organizations that would pay dues for 2 separate positions. IMCAL is advertising for joint position, and Mr. Allen suggests in job opening notices to describe it as such, but focus on the transportation aspect. Mr. Crain encourages committee to continue advertising until exhausted. Mayor Duncan suggests a cutoff date, and then talk with IMCAL. Mayor Hardey motions 30 days to determine if any applicants are hired, then wait to see what next steps IMCAL can take if nothing materializes during that time period. Mayor Roach seconded. The motion carried unopposed.

E. Election of Officers

Mayor Duncan opens the floor for nominations. Bob Hardey motions to keep current Chair Mayor Chris Duncan and Vice Chair Randy Roach in the same positions. This was seconded by Mr. Crain. The motion carries unopposed.

F. Schedule of Meeting Dates

Per MPO By-Laws, it was agreed to continue to meet on the 4th Wednesday of every odd numbered month at 9:00 am, besides any rescheduling or special meetings.

G. HSTP/Transit

Mr. Council explains that IMCAL's letter of support were being sent to agencies/providers, so they can add it to their annual grant applications. The information on the applications are to be added to the Transit Elements section of the TIP and to the HSTP Plan where applicable.

H. Indirect Cost

Mr. Jones and Mr. Council explain how, along with Ms. Debbie Smith, IMCAL's bookkeeper, they were attending sessions, and preparing to adjust to new rules being setup on what is constitutes Indirect or Direct costs.

I. Complete Streets

Mr. Council explains that a Bike/Pedestrian committee had formed late 2015, which changed its name to the Complete Streets Committee. Members of this organization have been in contact with the office to see what can be done to move it forward, after no activity for a few months. Mr. Allen explained that Complete Streets is the concept that looks at every transportation project to see what other inputs could be included that serve additional modes. Additionally, it was stated that the federal government has money, usually requiring local match of 20%. Mr. Crain, who served on the Complete Streets Steering Committee, suggests Mr. Council look through minutes and call back a meeting of the Steering Committee first, and also to work with him to make sure all files are available. Mr. Allen suggests to wait about 2 months before having a full Complete Streets Committee meeting.

J. SOWELA Master Plan

Mr. Council states Ms. Lori Marinovich and Mr. Blake Sonnier, City of Lake Charles Planning and Public Works, respectively, talked with him about the process of updating the TIP with an enhanced scope for pedestrian and road improvements on the campus (displayed in attachments). He adds that Ms. Katelynn McCartney had identified potential safety funds, covering 100% of similar projects, as long as they are on local roads. Mr. Landry inquires if this is an Urban System Program. Ms. Sholmire wants to make sure there is availability for funding. She states not to include the engineering aspect of the TIP with regards to J. Bennett Johnson Avenue (H.007113). She also notes, LA DOTD does one agreement, not tripartite agreements, and also that determining safety has to be data driven. Mr. Allen states that Ms. McCartney should be able to look up data on safety.

It was stated that enhancement money can be provided by the city or parish. Mr. Allen remarks that funding could come from various sources. The pedestrian aspect of the project is on hold, because more financing needed, along with more concrete costs estimates, to see where it fits under STP<200K program. Mr. Crain will talk with potential sources of funding.

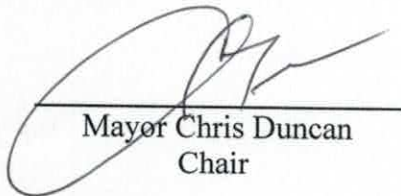
No action taken right now

K. Unified Planning Work Program

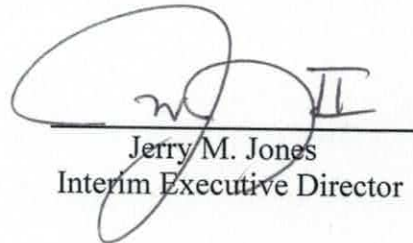
Mr. Council remarks that the office is working to complete the UPWP, and has been working with peers in other MPOs, LA DOTD, and FHWA to advise on how to best complete it.

III. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Crain, Mr. Landry seconded.



Mayor Chris Duncan
Chair



Jerry M. Jones
Interim Executive Director