

MINUTES

LAKE CHARLES URBANIZED AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC)

MARCH 23, 2016 AT 9:00 AM

2ND FLOOR, BOARD ROOM

SEED CENTER

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)
Todd Landry (DOTD District 7)

GUESTS:

Bob Babineaux
Mike Huber

IMCAL STAFF:

Jerry Jones (Interim Executive Director)
Walter Council (Transportation Planner III)
Ben Magallon (Transportation Planner II)
Paulette Moss (Office Manager)

ROLL CALL

Mayor Christopher Duncan called the meeting to order. Mr. Walter Council reported a quorum was present. Mayor Duncan motioned to add "Other Business" to the minutes. Mayor Roach seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

I. Review of Minutes from Last Meeting (January 14, 2016)

Mr. Todd Landry motioned to accept the minutes, then seconded by Mayor Bob Hardey. Motion carried unopposed.

II. Introduction of Benjamin Magallon as new Transportation Planner II

Mr. Magallon explained his educational and professional background, what projects he had completed or currently working on, and his pursuit to continue to advance the MPO's interests.

III.

A. Project Update: J. Bennett Johnston Road

Mr. Council and Mr. Magallon explained the team (SOWELA, City of Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish, IMCAL) assembled to revise the scope, estimated cost would rise from \$638,000 to under \$1 million. Revised plan was to add a raised median with pedestrian refuge islands (est. \$155K) at crossings and related traffic

control devices (est. \$115K), along J. Bennett Johnson Road. Also, the MPO was initiating a Road Safety Assessment (RSA) team.

Mr. Landry expressed concern about the safety and rationale of putting a raised median in a 2 lane road, wondering what the purpose would serve, as it usually is reserved for 3 or 4 lanes. Mayor Roach and Wes Crain input that this is SOWELA's idea, based on safety issues of rising enrollment, and students continually crossing the street. Mayor Roach states that SOWELA needs to concretely understand what they are asking the MPO to do, and that potentially other traffic calming devices could be advanced. Mayor Roach suggests that Mr. Landry speak with Tim Conner of Calcasieu Parish, before the project revision goes too much further, which is agreed by Mr. Landry.

B. Request for Approval: Motorized Assistance Patrol (MAP) Program

TAC recommendation that the TPC approve the Title 39 Professional Services Contract, to lease, not purchase, 2 patrol trucks, including two trained drivers and services at a cost of \$666,357.50/year, with local matching funds from STP<200K exactly half of that amount, at \$333,178.75/year. The trucks would patrol all of I-210, and Sulphur, LA to Iowa, LA, along I-10. The new MAP program would begin on July 1, 2016.

In FY 15, the total amount for the MAP program was \$350K, with half of that amount, \$175K, from local match. It was agreed to cap local match at \$250K, for unexpected cost overruns. The I-210 re-decking project has MAP vehicles, but is dedicated to exclusively service the reconstruction effort.

Mayor Roach and Wes Crain inquire if there is money. Mr. Jerry Jones confirms there is money available for MAP financing from STP<200K funds, and adds that some of that annual allocation of \$3.5 million may not be used this year. Mayor Hardey echoes this, explaining John Stine (H.007130) project in the TIP will not let in FY 16 as anticipated, but instead in FY 17, again leaving money unused for FY 16. He says Tanya Bankston from LA DOTD explained consultants found hydraulic issues, which will push the project back to January of 2017.

Mr. Landry says he will seek, in upcoming meetings with LaDOTD personnel, to make sure the MAP truck(s) dedicated for the I-210 re-decking project are not eliminated as a result of having these MPO leased MAP vehicles available. Bob Hardey motions to approve the 2 MAP truck expenditures, and request that the LaDOTD provide a MAP truck for 24 hours, exclusively for the I-210 re-decking project. Wes Crain seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

C. Information Only: Complete Streets Update

Mr. Council shared some of the workshops that Mr. Magallon and he had attended recently, including ADA and Bike/Ped. They now have in-hand resources, advanced knowledge, and a larger expert network to successfully bring back the Complete Streets Committee. Currently, they are working on cleaning up previous minutes and establishing the advisory committee that was never completed.

IV. New Business

A. Request for Approval:

This is a non-competing temporary consultant contract for J.D. Allen at a cost of \$25,000, on an as needed basis. The Executive Board approved using J.D. Allen for this service, but approval is still required by the TPC, with regards to LaDOTD. Stuart Moss, at the Executive Board meeting on January 19, 2016, expressed there being no ethical issues using his services, as long as he hasn't worked for IMCAL in 2 years, based on state law. Also, Mr. Moss expressed no ethical issues with regards to J.D. Allen's firm, Alliance Transportation Group, Inc, having existing contracts with some of the TPC voting members' jurisdictions they represent.

Wes Crain expresses that all the pertinent entities have been contacted, like FHWA and LaDOTD, and they indicated no ethical issues. Mr. Crain motions to approve having looked at any ethical issues. Mayor Roach seconds the motion to approve the contract, with a stipulation that a letter from an attorney, from Lake Charles or Calcasieu Parish, be ascertained that verifies there are no ethical issues or conflicts, and that the document be added to the MPO files. Motion carries unopposed.

B. Requests for Adoption: The FY 2016 – 2017 UPWP, pending Public Review period and Public Hearing. TAC committee recommended to proceed to the Transportation Policy Committee for review, adoption, and release for public review.

Mr. Jones requested removal of Katelynn McCartney's name and to make changes for Mr. Council's and Mr. Magallon's names under the "MPO" label, while the rest of the staff would be placed underneath the "IMCAL" label. Mr. Landry requested his name be added to the TAC voting member lists, since he is on that committee. Mr. Crain motioned to approve. Mayor Roach seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

C. Request for Adoption: Resolution #2096. After TPC passage of FY 2016-17, recommendation of adopting it as a resolution. Mr. Crain motions. Mr. Landry seconds. Motion carried unopposed.

V. Other Business:

Mayor Duncan inquires when the last time we had an Executive Director, prospects for a new one arriving for an interview, and if they have any management and transportation background. He says we have an economic boom, and we need one to lead in this important position. Mr. Jones states July 29, 2016 was last day of an Executive Director. Mr. Crain expresses the process is happening, but difficult to find prospects that operate in this arena, and have to find people outside of the area. Furthermore, he states Mr. J.D. Allen has been helpful trying to find people, with his connections to national organizations. Mayor Duncan inquires if it is time to split the Executive Director position, suggesting he may be recommending that to happen in the next 3 months. Mayor Duncan elaborates that the City of Sulphur is ready to infuse money to have an Executive Director at either higher pay or to split

the Executive Director, into two positions. Mr. Crain asks for a little more time, as they the prospects are not from this area, and give them time to think about it. Mayor Roach suggests in the past minutes it has been difficult to find people in that dual role.

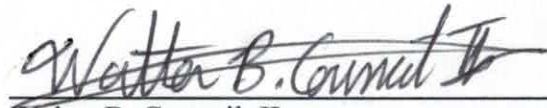
Ms. Paulette Moss suggests that the Executive Board will be discussing this at upcoming meeting. Mayor Roach points to Mr. Jones' earlier comment about unused STP<200K, and suggests that there be a special meeting to update funding, assess projects, and issues concerning securing an MPO Executive Director. Mr. Council suggests STP<200K funds not appropriated by John Stine Rd project don't have to sit unused, but can be advanced towards smaller projects from FY 17 and FY 18, by bringing them into the current FY 16. Chris Duncan says if there is not an Executive Director in 30 days, by April 26, then we need to have an agenda that discusses updating funding, projects, and issues concerning an MPO Executive Director.

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Hardey, seconded by Mr. Crain.



Mayor Christopher Duncan
Chair



Walter B. Council, II
Transportation Planner III