



MINUTES
LAKE CHARLES URBANIZED AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING
ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC)
May 25, 2016 AT 9:00 AM
2ND FLOOR, BOARDROOM
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)

IMCAL STAFF:

Cheri Soileau (Executive/MPO Director)
Walter Council (Transportation Planner III)
Benjamin Magallon (Transportation Planner II)
J.D. Allen (MPO Consultant)

Roll Call

Mayor Christopher Duncan called the meeting to order. Mr. Walter Council reported a quorum was present.

I. Review and Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting (April 28, 2016)

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

II. Old Business

A. INFORMATION ONLY: Mr. Council noted staff made administrative modifications from dialogue in the White Board and TAC/TPC joint meeting on May 28, 2016. The TAC, on May 19, 2016, made a non-binding/non-quorum request for more clarification on the MAP program. After talking with Dawn Sholmire (LADOTD), staff adjusted the table to display that 50% of the cost will

come from MPO's STP<200K funds. The amount represented in the table does not include funding for an added MAP truck on the I-210 bridge during the re-decking project. Funding for the added MAP patrol truck during the I-210 re-decking will be covered under the costs of the I-210 contract.

- B. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL:** Tim Connor, Calcasieu Parish engineer, had introduced the Calcasieu Transportation Initiative (CTI) at the Whiteboard Meeting on April 28, 2016. At the May 19, 2016 TAC meeting, a non-binding/non-quorum recommendation was made that the TPC approve a project call to amend the MTP, for any roads that are functionally classified.

During the discussion, Mr. J.D. Allen suggested that a project call be initiated so that the CTI can be included in the MTP and properly presented to DOTD. This would, then, allow the CTI projects be integrated with the MTP process and be eligible for Federal funding.

A project call packet, which includes current MTP projects, the project selection process document, and the forms for submitting projects for consideration, will be sent to the TPC members. This would be a 30-day project call window. The TAC will then score submitted projects for adoption into the current MTP. Mr. Crain motioned to move forward with the project call/selection process and Mayor Duncan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- C. INFORMATION ONLY:** Mr. Council explained that time and logistic constraints prevented staff from facilitating a luncheon with LADOTD Secretary Shawn Wilson and local stakeholders. However, the Secretary did visit Lake Charles, with appointments at the Port of Lake Charles and the Sasol plant. Mayor Randy Roach advised that staff put together a letter, requesting that Secretary Wilson return, signed by the MPO. Ms. Cheri Soileau said staff would create a draft letter for the Secretary.

III. New Business

- A. INFORMATION ONLY:** Mr. Council explained that the HSTP Plan document has been updated for FY 17 (2016-17). Mr. Allen added that the HSTP Plan does the coordinating for the 5 parishes, and the MPO receives \$5,000 annually to do planning. Every agency in the state has to say they are part of the HSTP. Mayor Roach asked why Lake Charles Transit was not in the updated tables. Mr. Allen agreed Lake Charles Transit should be in the updated tables. Mr. Council said the addition would be made.
- B. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL:** Mr. Council explained staff is seeking approval to advertise for a 14-day period of Public Review/Comment, with regards to adoption of Amendment V to the TIP. Amendment V is an update of the Transit Element section of the TIP, comprised of FTA project requests from transit agencies and providers that have solicited or have been funded for FY 17 (2016-

17) in the urbanized area. Since the Amendment V needs to be sent to the LADOTD transit personnel before July 1, 2016, after the Public Review/Comment period, an unscheduled TPC meeting would be required to adopt it. Mayor Roach motioned to approve advertisement for the Public Review/Comment period, Mr. Todd Landry seconded. Motion carried.

- C. FOR DISCUSSION:** Ms. Soileau explained that staff had discussed the potential of having the TPC approve the addition of a transit representative to the TAC, as that is a desirable stakeholder on this type of committee. Lake Charles Transit was considered the most suitable agency to have a representative in the TAC, being the largest transit agency and the one most likely to heavily expand in the area. The TAC on May 19, 2016, made a non-binding/non-quorum recommendation that the staff explore and pursue opportunities to add a transit representative to the TAC.

Mr. Landry suggested that Mary Fontenot, Calcasieu Parish School Board, was already on the TAC. Mayor Duncan and Mr. Allen suggested staff look through meeting minutes to see if Ms. Fontenot is currently a TAC member. Ms. Soileau said staff would look over the minutes.

- D. FOR DISCUSSION:** The TAC, on May 19, 2016, made a non-binding/non-quorum recommendation to explore and pursue opportunities for some additional studies. Some of the preliminary ideas are below.

- a. Bike/Ped, Complete Streets, and/or Transit Study for Westlake and Sulphur
- b. Smart Growth Plan
- c. Access management on Ryan Street
- d. What can we do for Westlake (Access management; streets that can be widened)
- e. Specific/in-depth transportation impact study (for MPO study area as affected by sudden growth)

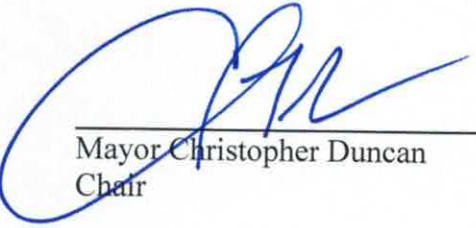
Mayor Roach asked about the status of Complete Streets Advisory Committee (CSAC). A CSAC meeting was held the week before and Lori Marinovich, City of Lake Charles planner was selected as chair. Mayor Roach requested that Moss Bluff be included in the Complete Streets initiative. Ms. Soileau remarked that staff had determined several local stakeholder groups wanted to implement a Better Block event. Along with having an effective united message, CSAC could coordinate all efforts to avoid redundancies. Regarding other studies, Mr. Magallon mentioned that other rural non-urbanized towns could use a master plan. Mayor Duncan pointed out that the City of Sulphur's master plan is on hold, but will send a copy to the staff when it could be released.

There was discussion regarding right of way (RoW) preservation along future growth corridors. Mr. Crain mentioned the issue of determining if the local jurisdiction and/or state would purchase the RoW, which makes a project more


expensive. Mayor Roach voiced that RoW has to be considered, but often developers can file grievances or sue for compensation for not being able to build on land that might eventually be purchased as RoW. Mayor Roach was cautious of the liability involved if the MPO were to pinpoint potential corridors where future RoW should be protected. Mr. Landry states that when the state knows there is a RoW identified for being protected they will go and purchase it. Mr. Crain noted that developers will ask for a variance in particular zones. Mr. Allen suggested each planning department should be aware of the MPO's plans, and that we can look to New Orleans and Shreveport for guidance on this matter. Mr. Magallon stated that Unified Development Codes, with defined set-back ordinances in future growth corridors could be a solution to this matter. Mr. Crain followed that this is why we do plans, because development may not happen for 30 years, but when people ask for variances, there can be a legitimate reason given why they shouldn't be allowed to encroach on a RoW of concern.

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Crain motioned to adjourn, Mayor Hardey seconded.



Mayor Christopher Duncan
Chair



Cheri Soileau
Executive/MPO Director