



MINUTES
LAKE CHARLES URBANIZED AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING
ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC)
September 28, 2016
9 am – 11 am
2ND FLOOR, BOARDROOM
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)

IMCAL STAFF:

Cheri Soileau (Executive/MPO Director)
Walter Council (Transportation Planner III)
Ben Magallon (Transportation Planner II)
Megan Romero (Safety Coalition Coordinator)
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 (July 27, 2016)

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

II. Old Business

A. REQUEST FOR ADOPTION: Ms. Cheri Soileau requested approval to amend the By-Laws to reflect the current 9 members on the TAC, and that a quorum will consist of 5 out of 9 members being present at a TAC meeting. Mayor Hardey motioned to approve the amendment, seconded by Mr. Todd Landry. Motion carried unopposed.

B. FOR INFORMATION: Ms. Soileau explained that staff will revamp the Project Update table, devised as a method to monitor and inform the TAC and TPC about on-going STP<200K projects, with engagement of the Responsible Charge (RC). The table would be made available to TAC, TPC, and RCs. Mr. J.D. Allen stated FHWA recommend this type of status update, and the staff send out a month before the TAC meeting. Ms. Soileau noted comment section will cover deviations.

C. FOR INFORMATION: Ms. Cheri Soileau and Mr. Allen indicated Mr. Ben Magallon did a thorough assessment of the "Project Review and Evaluation" page in the Project Call document, which was requested by TAC. The document had no revision since 2001. The current "Project Review and Evaluation" page weighting of scores did not relate to the criteria set forth through public participation in the 2040 MTP Process. The Project Call document had inconsistent weighting of scores as well and neither did it relate to the MTP process, as is requested by Federal Highways. The TAC should be scoring projects for prioritization, not consultants or staff. This process and scoring will be updated to meet guidelines and reflect the MTP public involvement process, as is required. Once the TAC has completed scoring prioritization, the TPC will vote on TAC recommendations.

D. FOR DISCUSSION: The committee discussed the Governor's Task Force on Transportation Infrastructure Investment meeting that was held on September 13, 2016 at the SEED Center.

- Mayor Duncan was informed audience least vocal to date in the state.
- Ms. Soileau was pleased to see mayors from across the region, along with a wide spectrum of discussion focal points.
- Mr. Allen mentioned task force meeting instructions being very broad.
- Mr. Crain remarked it seemed the task force sought endorsement of gas tax increase, although difficult to request public taxation for projects that may not see results for 15 years. Mr. Allen stated local option gas tax permits projects to be completed with less regulatory stringency and reduced costs. Mayor Duncan relayed that statewide approval was not certain, but interesting to see what does materialize.

III. New Business

A. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF STUDY: Mr. Allen, as a consultant, removed himself from the room to avoid conflict of interest. Ms. Soileau sought approval of the I-210 Bridge Regional Traffic Study, assessing impact of the I-210 re-decking occurring Fall/Summer 2017, at a cost of \$125,000 (80% IMCAL; 20% Calcasieu Parish). LaDOTD approved the use of IMCAL PL funds from the UPWP of FY 2015 – 16.

- TAC, at most recent meeting (9/15/16), assessed and recommended the study for TPC approval, contingent on inclusion of the December 2016 through the end of March 2017 timeline.

- The committee and staff discussed the study's potential to evaluate circulation of traffic on local streets and neighborhoods, transit scenarios, employers' responses, intersection improvements, and emergency services presence and access.
- Ms. Soileau explained consultant selection process needs to be reviewed.
- Mr. Crain motioned to approve the I-210 Bridge Regional Traffic Study, seconded by Mayor Hardey. Motion carried unopposed.

B. REQUEST FOR ADOPTION: Resolution #2101. Ms. Soileau requested adoption of a resolution in support of a new Task to conduct the I-210 Bridge Regional Traffic Study, as an amendment to FY 2016-17 UPWP, as prompted by LaDOTD.

- In accordance with the By-Laws, as an amendment of regional significance, staff had initiated the 14-day Public Review and Hearing period on 9/26/16.
- Mr. Crain motioned to adopt the resolution to amend the UPWP, adding the Task to conduct the I-210 Bridge Regional Traffic Study. This was seconded by Mr. Landry. Motion carried unopposed.

C. INFORMATION ONLY: Mr. Ben Magallon described his attendance at the Transportation Research Board: Tools of the Trade Conference in Charleston, SC, from September 12 – 16, 2016.

- He relayed it was an incredible conference of planners and engineers and featured useful tactics for day-to-day operations in the office.
- As a result of the conference, Mr. Magallon mentioned possible future funding related to the FAST Act's focus on freight planning, with the Lake Charles Urbanized Area being an Industrial Area and Freight being an important factor for the Lake Charles MPO Economy.

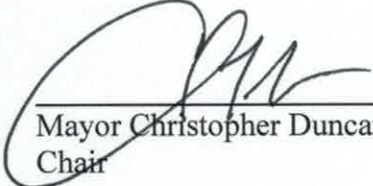
D. INFORMATION ONLY: Mr. Ben Magallon stated the Complete Streets Advisory Committee continued coordination with Go Group, the Alliance, and other community groups on an initial Better Block program. Mr. Crain mentioned The City of Lafayette's Better Block event, which Mr. Magallon had participated in when employed by The University of Lafayette.

E. INFORMATION ONLY: Mayor Duncan suggested TPC attend LaDOTD Legislative Hearing, October 12, 2016 at 8:30 am, Lake Charles Civic Center.

F. INFORMATION ONLY: Go Group public meeting, Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 6 pm, SEED Center, to discuss housing, education, transportation initiatives. Mayor Duncan stated the City of Sulphur has previously scheduled major meeting during the Go Group event, but will request copy of agenda and minutes.

IV. Adjournment

Mr. Crain motioned to adjourned, seconded by Mayor Hardey.



Mayor Christopher Duncan
Chair



Cheri Soileau
Executive/MPO Director