

MINUTES

APRIL 26, 2017 AT SEED CENTER, 2ND FLOOR ROOM B/C, LAKE CHARLES, LA

MEMBERS PRESENT (QUORUM)

Mayor Christopher Duncan (City of Sulphur) (Chair)
Mayor Randy Roach (City of Lake Charles) (Vice Chair) (Proxy was John Cardone from City of Lake Charles)
Mayor Bob Hardey (City of Westlake)
Wes Crain (Calcasieu Parish Police Jury)
Carlos McCloud (FHWA Non-Voting Member)
Todd Landry (DOTD District 7) (Proxy was Pat Landry from LaDOTD District 7)

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Conner (Calcasieu Parish Police Jury)
Dan Broussard (LaDOTD Non-Voting Member)

LCMPO STAFF

Cheri Soileau (Executive Director/MPO Director)
Walter Council (Transportation Planner III)
Benjamin Magallon (Transportation Planner II)
Megan Romero (Safety Coalition Coordinator)

GUESTS

Mike Huber (City of Lake Charles)
Shelley Fontenot (City of Lake Charles)
Dawn R. Sholmire (LaDOTD)
Tanya Bankston (LaDOTD)
Connie Betts (LaDOTD)
Butch Babineaux (Fenstermaker)

1. OPENING

A. Roll Call

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

B. FOR ACTION: Change of Agenda.

Mayor Duncan requested dialogue on hiring a Regional Economic Development Planner to MPO staff to New Business. Mayor Bob Hardey motioned, seconded by Mr. Wes Crain. Motion carried unopposed.

2. WHITE BOARD MEETING

A. Whiteboard: Dawn Sholmire from LADOTD presided over meeting.

• **FY 17**

- **Hazel Street (H.011837)** – Behind schedule, but construction phase should be able to make it into FY 16 – 17.
- **J. Bennet Johnston (H.007113)** – Just received Notice to Proceed so will be moving forward.
- **John Stine (H.007130)** – Should have an August letting, so still in fiscal year FY 16 - 17. Has been coordinating an intersection improvement with Sasol.

• **FY 18**

- **Ruth St./Huntington St. (H.011838)** – This have construction letting before end of FY 16 -17.
- improvement with Sasol.

• **FY 19 and Beyond**

- Ms. Sholmire noted that the MPO should be using an average of about \$2.93 million/year over next 4 years. Need to prepare and schedule future projects for out years.
- Ms. Cheri Soileau inquired about the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) obtaining increased funding once likely surpassing the 200K population threshold in 2020 Census. Ms. Sholmire explained the 200K population threshold only pertains to the urbanized areas, not the entire MPA. It may take up to 4 years after the decennial census before new population funding aligns with a potential new census designation.
- Ms. Soileau noted that there will be a new TIP project selection in upcoming months.

B. TIP Projects and Responsible Charges: Ms. Sholmire explained that transportation project guidelines still require Stage 0, Responsible Charge form, and ICQ form.

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review and Adoption of Minutes from TPC Meeting (March 28, 2017)

Mr. West Crain motioned to accept minutes, seconded by Mayor Bob Hardey.

B. FOR INFORMATION: FOR DISCUSSION: 2017 Lake Charles Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture update. Mr. Council and Mr. Ben Magallon noted that Westlake had requested entry into the updated ITS document, and GO Group highlighted particular areas of traffic congestion for assessment.

- Mr. Pat Landry emphasized the importance of receiving feedback from jurisdictions and the public, but also that it was a living document.

C. FOR INFORMATION: HSTP/Transit and Lake Charles Service Plan. Ms. Soileau noted that at the last HSTP/Transit meeting, on 4/25/17, staff reviewed the *Self-Assessment Tool for Communities* with the committee

- HSTP/Transit committee wants to publicize better.
- There has been renewed focused on creating a call center to avoid duplication and gaps in service. Prerequisites for implementation have been revealed.
- Alliance Transportation Group, Inc was awarded the RFQ for Lake Charles Transit study. The study will align transit aspects within the upcoming Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) process.

D. FOR INFORMATION Complete Streets Advisory Committee (CSAC). Mr.

Magallon noted the Better Block, 4/28/17 from 4 pm – 8 pm, will convene on West Pujo Street and Lake Shore Drive, which will be in conjunction with Spring Art Walk.

- Mr. Crain was supportive, but noted consideration of land uses.
- Mr. Landry indicated assessing areas with lower volumes and speeds, and that safety and accessibility are both important. Traffic is like water, seeking path of least resistance.
- Mr. Carlos McCloud explained it as an opportunity for the MPO via CSAC to evaluate a reasonable bike/pedestrian plan and acquire public involvement and interaction.
- Ms. Soileau mentioned good opportunity to consider other areas in MPA for demonstrations.

- Mr. Magallon and Ms. Soileau indicated the diverse groups helping with the Better Block project are also available to help with the LRTP process, reducing cost for the consultant.
- The CSAC has requested the creation of a MPO Complete Streets plan for the MPA, alongside a policy that could be adopted by jurisdictions.
- Future LaDOTD activities, using revised Engineering Directives and Standards Manual, will be able to utilize a Complete Streets plan and policy to more seamlessly integrate enhancements into TIP projects. This is permitted as long as the cost of bike, pedestrian, and ADA improvements don't exceed 20% of the total cost of a TIP project.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. FOR ACTION: LA 384 at LA 385 intersection improvement to the TIP FY 2015-18.

Ms. Soileau requested, after TAC recommendation on 4/20/17, to add LA 384 and LA 385 intersection project (H.002059), as a ROW in FY 17 and construction in FY 18 to the TIP as Amendment XII. (**SEE Appendix B**)

- Mr. Landry motioned, seconded by Mr. Cardone. Motion carried unopposed.


B. FOR ACTION: Hiring of Regional Economic Development Planner. Ms. Soileau requested recommendation from TPC to the IMCAL board for a Regional Economic Development Planner, with planning and economic development background.

- Staff needs assistance with economic development activities.
- Economic Development Administration (EDA) will reimburse up to \$60K, but IMCAL has to first draw down funds.
- In tandem, a person competently filling the position can provide further justification to attract new members, who can help pay for the position.
- Mr. Cardone mentioned past issues with budget concerns, and wanted to make sure the candidate was providing good value.
- Mr. Landry mentioned that the process should be competent.
- Ms. Soileau noted that currently staff provides monthly reports to the IMCAL board, illustrating tasks being undertaken and their value.
- Ms. Soileau noted federal government budgetary scrutiny for EDA.
- Mr. Cardone motioned to recommend the hiring of a regional economic development planner, with 3 – 6 month evaluations to show if position is adding value, seconded by Mr. Crain.

5. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

Mayor Hardey motioned, seconded by Mr. Crain.



Mayor Christopher Duncan
Chair



Cheri Soileau
Executive Director/MPO Director