

MINUTES

AUGUST 22, 2018, 9 – 11 AM, SEED CENTER, 2ND FLOOR, ROOM B/C, LAKE CHARLES, LA,

TPC MEMBERS PRESENT (QUORUM)

Wes Crain (Calcasieu Parish) (Chair)
Mayor Nick Hunter (City of Lake Charles) (Vice Chair) (Proxy was Mike Huber)
Don Duberville (DOTD – District 7) (Proxy was Kevin Seilhan)
Mayor Bob Hardey (City of Westlake) (Proxy was John S. Allen)
Mayor Mike Danahay (City of Sulphur)

LCMPO STAFF

Cheri Soileau (LCMPO Director)
Walter Council (Transportation Planner)

GUESTS

Butch Babineaux (Fenstermaker)
Mark Herbert (Department of Public Safety)
Al Hoover (Lake Charles Transit)

1. OPENING

A. Roll Call

Mr. Wes Crain called the meeting to order. Ms. Soileau stated there was TPC quorum.

B. Approval of Minutes from Last TPC Meeting (May 17, 2018)

Mr. Mike Huber motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Mayor Mike Danahay.

C. Opportunity for Public Comments or Questions

No public comments.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development for FY 2019-22

Mr. Council noted the STP<200K funded projects in the current TIP FY 2019 – 22 and the two Stage 0 projects (Ihles Road and Enterprise Blvd) from the City of Lake Charles awaiting a project number from the LaDOTD.

- Mr. Council shared the current aggregation of projects, including the yet to be LaDOTD approved Stage 0 projects will come to \$14 million, which basically means no further projects can be added using these funds.
- Mr. Huber added that Ihles Road is a joint Calcasieu Parish and City of Lake Charles project.

B. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Ms. Soileau shared that Stantec Inc was in the middle of the the land use section of the long-range transportation plan. Typically, land use isn't part of a MTP, but it is essential to illustrate the interconnectivity with transportation.

Ms. Soileau shared some concerns about the forward movement of the I-10 bridge, noting that according to LaDOTD the Environmental Impact Statement would likely be pushed back a year to 2020.

- Ms. Soileau mentioned that she would request that LaDOTD headquarters keep the MPO in aware of major changes in the EIS process, and make them aware that the MPO is not pleased with this update.
 - Mr. Soileau and Mr. Seilhan noted even LaDOTD District 7 were not made aware of the changes until recently.
- Ms. Soileau added she would have a representative from LaDOTD or HNTB speak on progression of EIS at next Joint TAC/TPC meeting.
- Ms. Soileau mentioned the Westlake interchange as an area that was being re-assessed.
 - Ms. Soileau and Mr. John Allen mentioned that the bridge would likely land all the way to Burger King, because it would need to go above 2 rail road tracks and 2 natural gas pipes.
- Ms. Soileau and Mayor Danahay mentioned tollbooths as necessary for I-10 bridge.
 - Mr. Butch Babineaux suggested having someone from HNTB come and speak at the next Joint TPC/TAC meeting.
 - Mr. Babineaux mentioned that toll firms are seeking opportunities that are attractive and feasible.
 - Ms. Soileau added that the I-10 Calcasieu River Bridge is deemed the most optimal mega-project in the country.
- Alliance/Chamber is going to Mobile, AL to learn about the bridges being planned there, which will include tollways.
 - Ms. Soileau mentioned that a HDR representative for Alabama DOT would meet with her soon.

C. I-210 Bridge Re-decking

Ms. Soileau and Mr. Kevin Seilhan noted the I-210 meetings being facilitated by LaDOTD. Ms. Soileau noted there would be a representative to present on the I-210 bridge re-decking the next Joint TAC/TPC meeting.

- At next Joint TPC/TAC meeting there will be a presentation.
- Mayor Danahay said the meeting there was informational.
- Mr. Huber suggested that we start adding a list of updates on District Projects to the agenda.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Advance Program – Southwest Louisiana Air Quality Task Force

Mr. Council noted the update to the Advance Program had been completed.

- New partners and strategies: bike lanes, CNG station, planting trees, etc.
- The regions ozone emissions have stayed below the 70 part per million level for the last 3 years.

B. Travel Efficiency Assessment Model (TEAM)

Mr. Council noted the various strategies modeled to reduce emissions via vehicle miles traveled: Travel Demand Management; Transit Improvement; Parking Pricing; and Land Use – Neighborhoods.

- However, this study provided opportunity to acknowledge weaknesses in strategies and consider in future endeavors how to potentially intensify methods for emissions reductions.

C. Transportation for America (T4America)

Mr. Council noted the relevant Lake Charles recommendations.


- T4America facilitated a February 2018 workshop that included LaDOTD, Rapides Planning Commission, and other MPOs, providing some useful critiques and tips to have a clearer vision for transportation projects moving forward.
- In Spring 2019, TAC and TPC will prioritize a list of transportation projects for 2045 MTP, long-range transportation plan, encompassing the next 25 years. Staff recommends TAC/TPC keep the existing framework, but massaging in some of the critiques and tips from February 2018 workshop and document.
- Mr. Council added that Lake Charles MPO's 2016 TIP project prioritization was recognized in the final document as a "national leader" for the "quantitative scoring framework in its prioritization process" that "few other MPOs have done yet", along with having a process that elected officials understood and promoted. This prioritization process was designed by Alliance Transportation Group.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Huber motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Danahay.



Wes Crain
Chair



Cheri Soileau
Executive/MPO Director