

MINUTES

OCTOBER 29, 2020, 9 – 10:30 AM, VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

TPC MEMBERS PRESENT (QUORUM)

Wes Crain (Calcasieu Parish) (Chair)
Mayor Mike Bob Hardey (City of Westlake) (Vice Chair)
Mayor Mike Danahay (City of Sulphur)
Don Duberville (LaDOTD – District 7)
Carlos McCloud (FHWA La Regional Representative) (Non-Voting Member)

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT (QUORUM)

Stacey Dowden (Chair)
Nick Pestello (Port of Lake Charles) (Vice Chair)
John Cardone (City of Lake Charles)
Tim Conner (Proxy was John Bruce)
Don Duberville (LaDOTD – District 7)
Carlos McCloud (FHWA La Regional Representative) (Non-Voting Member)
Casey Lewis (LaDOTD Public Transit)
Dawn Sholmire (LaDOTD State Planning Section)

LCMPO STAFF

Michael Hollier (Interim Executive/MPO Director)
Walter Council (LCMPO Transportation Planner)

GUESTS

Angela Murrell (LaDOTD)

1. OPENING

A. Roll Call

Mr. Wes Crain called the meeting to order. Mr. Mike Hollier stated there was quorum for both TAC and TPC.

B. Minutes of Joint TAC/TPC Meeting held July 16, 2020

TAC Chair Ms. Stacy Dowden requested action on the minutes. Mr. Nic Pestello motioned to recommend TPC adoption of minutes as submitted, seconded by Mr. Tim Conner. Ms. Dowden requested a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

TPC Chair Wes Crain requested action on the TAC recommendation. Mayor Bob Hardey motioned, seconded by Mr. Don Duberville. Mr. Crain requested a vote on the motion to adopt the minutes, which passed unanimously.

C. Minutes from TAC Meeting held July 16, 2020

TAC Chair Ms. Stacy Dowden requested action on the minutes. Mr. Nic Pestello motioned to recommend TPC adoption of minutes as submitted, seconded by Mr. John Cardone. The Chair requested a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

TPC Chair Wes Crain requested action on the TAC recommendation. Mr. Duberville motioned, seconded by Mayor Hardey. Mr. Chair requested a vote on the motion to adopt the minutes, which passed unanimously.

D. Public Comments or Questions

The Chair called for public comments. Hearing none, the Chair moved to agenda item Old Business.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Lake Charles Urban Area Motor Assistance Program (M.A.P.) Report

Mr. Hollier shared that M.A.P. had indicated post-Hurricane Laura reduction in incidents and services provided.

B. Regional Transportation Safety Report

Mr. Hollier stated he would be reporting crash data on regional safety. He noted he was not certain current crash data was complete.

- Mr. Crain asked if there had been a drop in crashes correlated to road improvements on I-10. Mr. Hollier responded that staff was collecting data and would get report in future meetings.
- Mr. Conner said he saw an increase in crashes after the Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Safety information data will demonstrate what is happening in future meetings.

C. I-10 Calcasieu River Bridge Public Meeting

Mr. Hollier explained that the I-10 Calcasieu River Bridge study, originally anticipated to be held in November, will be delayed. IMCAL offered to hold a virtual meeting at the SEED Center, led by lead consultants HNTB. LaDOTD preferred the Lake Charles Civic Center, but facility will not be available until hurricane repairs are completed in Spring of 2021.

- Mr. John Cardone noted early voting was held in Civic Center, but full availability of Civic Center would be delayed. He reported there would likely be reconstruction occurring for a few months.
- Mayor Hardey suggested Westlake Recreation Center. Mr. Hollier agreed to investigate that as well.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2019 – 22 TIP Administrative Modifications

1) TIP Administrative Modification Record Item No. 33

Mr. Walter Council reported Project No. H.012052 La. Highway 3092 Roundabout engineering cost was decreased from \$275K to \$32K using Highway Safety Improvement Program funds at 100% Fed Share in FY 20.

2) TIP Administrative Modification Record Item No. 34

Mr. Walter Council shared that Project No. H.013870, Enterprise Boulevard, 12th Street to Broad Street, an overlay project, was rescheduled from FY 20 to FY 22.

B. FY 2019-22 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments – Resolution No. 2161

1) TIP Amendment No. XVIII

Mr. Council shared that Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5339 Rural Transit Funds in the amount of \$4,117,647 for purchase of nine (9) 35-foot diesel buses was transferred by LaDOTD to Lake Charles Transit with 85/15 federal/local match split in FY 2021. The 14-day Public Review/Hearing period was completed with no public comments.

- TAC Chair Ms. Dowden requested action on the amendment. Mr. Cardone motioned to recommend TPC adoption of the proposed amendment, as stated above. Motion was seconded by Mr. Conner. The Chair called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.
- TPC Chair Wes Crain requested action on the TAC recommendation, as stated above. Mr. Duberville motioned, seconded by Mayor Hardey. The Chair requested a vote on the motion to adopt the amendment, which passed unanimously.

2) TIP Amendment No. XIX

Mr. Walter Council explained that H.***** Sallier Street at Ryan Street intersection was removed from FY 21, programmed as information only without a project number. Furthermore, there would added \$1.21M, from deleted H.***** Sallier St. at Ryan St., to Project No. H.013870 Enterprise Boulevard, aggregating to total of \$2.42M at 80% Fed Share using Surface Transportation Program < 200K (STP<200K) funds in FY 22. Also, there would be change in project termini of construction phase of Project No. H.013870, from Enterprise Boulevard (Broad Street to 12th Street) to Enterprise Boulevard (Broad Street to 5th Street) in FY 22. This project partially funds Phase 1 of 3 for an Enterprise

Boulevard reconstruction overlay. The 14-day Public Review/Hearing was initiated on October 23, 2020.

- TAC Chair Ms. Dowden requested action on the amendment. Mr. Conner motioned to recommend TPC adoption of the amendment, as noted above. The motion was seconded by Mr. Duberville. The Chair called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.
- TPC Chair requested action on recommendation of TAC to amend TIP Project No. XIX, Enterprise Boulevard (Broad Street to 5th Street), scope from an overlay to reconstruction and identify three separate phases for implementation: Phase I: Enterprise (Broad St to 5th St); Enterprise (12th St to 8th St); and Phase III (5th St to 8th St). Mayor Danahay motioned to accept the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hardey. The Chair requested a vote on the motion to adopt the motion to amend the project scope as noted, passed unanimously.

C. MPO FY 2023 – 26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project Call Preparation

1) Comprehensive Corridor Studies (Stage 0) and Plans

Mr. Hollier requested committees to either consider proceeding with the TIP 2023 – 26 Project Call or delaying the process to provide local government with more time following impacts of hurricanes.

- Mr. Tim Conner urged to proceed.
- Mr. Hollier requested the draft set of Project Call Procedures submitted be voted on at the next Joint TAC/TPC meeting in December 2020.
- Mr. Hollier added, that unlike large MPOs, since LCMPO is a small MPO with less than 200,000 population, it competes in pool of funding with similar sized areas. State manages this STP<200K pool of funding (\$14M/MPO, 80% Fed Share), so if not spent the funds are recycled to other areas.
- Mr. Hollier's experience is to look at small aspects of a large project, because when money becomes available for any aspect of a plan, the Stage 0 is already completed. Thus, you can clear and work on an entire corridor, without waiting for a Stage 0 on every individual aspect of it. The corridor process facilitates and expedites improvements. Depending on length, a corridor plan costs approximately \$200,000. He suggested consideration of 4 – 5 corridors for study, using STP<200K funds.
- Mr. Hollier added that once corridor study completed you can come back and sign a Tripartite agreement. What this really engages are businesses and stakeholders along those corridors, because the corridor study integrates elements such as access management, aesthetics, utilities, etc. EX: Ihles Road is a potential example.

- Corridor plans allows local government to keep an eye out for request to rezone. It provides opportunity to let zoning and development regulations to work together. Once a corridor study complete may take 15 – 20 years.
- Mr. Hollier suggesting consideration of corridor plans for FY 2023-26.

2) Tripartite agreement

Mr. Hollier mentioned that the best way to maintain accountability for the implementation of these projects is a tripartite agreement between the MPO, State and the local government the project is jurisdictionally located.

3) Special projects

Mr. Hollier explained that in the middle of all that are special project. There is a stronger interest to advance.

- Mr. Hollier noted his experience with I-49 in Lafayette, which had a Record of Decision in 2003 and still no funding. Need someone to facilitate and work projects like I-10 Calcasieu River Bridge study.

4) New Draft qualification/procedures for the Project Call

As mentioned in #2, Mr. Hollier will recommend in Project Call to focus on small projects. Staff will send copy of the revised Project Call Procedures. If members are comfortable the Project Call procedures would be presented for adoption at next meeting.

D. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Mr. Hollier mentioned time to put in applications in November 2, 2020 – December 16, 2020. Mike has suggested Chennault Airport interchange. TAP may be ideal. Will send to TAC/TPC but also to IMCAL board members.

4. INFORMATION

A. National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration

Mr. Hollier noted if accepted, will be using example of another project done in Acadiana, with a hope that will work. The grant offers \$300,000 to \$400,000 per year to do something interesting dealing with the effect of sea level rise and coastal erosion mitigation.

- Mr. Carlos McCloud suggested looking at NOAA grant submitted letter of Intent covering 3 parishes, like Cameron, Calcasieu, and Jefferson Davis parishes.
- Mr. Tim Conner requested to know if it will raise road levels, as he knew of those issues in Cameron Parish. Mr. Hollier said it would be comprehensive.

- Mr. Hollier noted challenges figuring out how to mitigate and make more resourceful. Also, he talked with researchers from LSU who said even if IMCAL don't get it they are still willing to work with the agency.

B. Lake Charles Transit Stop Infrastructure Analysis and Leverage

Mr. Council explained that LaDOTD had provided an FY 20 extension of FTA funds through December 2020. Staff decided to use those PL funds and select Texas Southern University – Center for Transportation Training and Research to conduct a Lake Charles transit stop infrastructure analysis, leveraging that information for other opportunities.

- The consultants will examine existing conditions, accessibility, hazards, and vicinity to Calcasieu Parish Bus Stops.
- Since the final assessment would not be conducted by the consultants, LaDOTD informed IMCAL the selection of Texas Southern did not require implementing a consultant selection process.
- The IMCAL Board approved the contract between IMCAL and Texas Southern, once an attorney had reviewed the document.

C. District Rail Analysis

Mr. Hollier noted that staff is working on securing funding on a rail analysis. Will update periodically.

D. Post-Hurricane Laura and Delta Impact and Needs

Mr. Hollier asked if issues related to transportation via hurricanes. No comments.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Danahay motioned to adjourn the Joint Meeting of the Lake Charles MPO committees, seconded by Mayor Hardey. The Chair called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.



Wes Crain
Chair



Michael Hollier
Executive/MPO Director