

MINUTES

JANUARY 27, 2021, 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)

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT (QUORUM)

Stacy Dowden (City of Sulphur) (Chair)
Nick Pestello (Port of Lake Charles) (Vice Chair)
John Cardone (City of Lake Charles)
Tim Conner (Calcasieu Parish)
Don Duberville (LaDOTD – District 7)
Kevin Melton (Chennault Airport)
Mary Bass-Fontenot (Calcasieu Parish School Board)
Dawn Sholmire (LaDOTD State Planning Section) (Non-Voting Member)

LCMPO STAFF

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

GUESTS

John Bruce (Calcasieu Parish)
Jamie Gaines (IMCAL)
Al Hoover (Lake Charles Transit)
Mike Huber (City of Lake Charles)
Vijay Kunada (Neel-Schaffer)
Angela Murrell (LaDOTD)
Marion Greene (City of Lake Charles)
Tammy York (LaDOTD District 7)

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 December 10, 2020

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

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

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. I-10 Calcasieu River Bridge Project (H.003931)

Mr. Hollier noted aspects of the Context Sensitive Solutions meeting on December 7, 2020. By law the DOTD must consider any project with robust collaboration from MPO. It is the MPO that can carry the big stick, emphasizing what is at play and where the final decision may rest.

With regards to the I-10 Calcasieu River Bridge, everything is in play, so the point is to obtain Record of Decision. Since infrastructure is around for a long time, important to make recommendation with a single voice. Additionally, Mr. Hollier recommended that TAC first sit down and review options to formalize a united decision. Aspects that need to be reviewed are not just approaches and motifs, but Operations and Maintenance. LaDOTD's Deputy Secretary, Dr. Eric Kalivoda, is going to be looking to see who will be performing long-term maintenance on any added elements. Mr. Hollier urged that in the next 45 – 60 days to understand options and possibly develop a final decision to present to public and LaDOTD.

- Suggest 2 meetings:
 - One at TAC meeting looking at variables and options to see which options to recommend.
 - Second with TPC to say here is what TPC recommended how what do you want.
- Then also talk with LaDOTD to determine funding changes, aligning with adding or subtracting different elements.
- Mayor Danahay inquired about any additional elements
- Wes Crain noted his participation at the December 2020 meeting. He communicated that it was a good meeting, but mentioned that over the years, the MPO had talked about having an iconic bridge. Yet he felt the meeting only displayed a base design, similar in appearance to I-10 Sabine River Bridge. He understands additional funds are required for additional elements but wants to see different designs and their estimated costs, so the public can decide if worth the price.

B. MPO Project Call Status

Mr. Walter Council shared that staff had been in contact with jurisdictions to guide and answer any questions about the Project Call.

C. Lake Charles Transit Stop Inventory Analysis Project Status

Mr. Council explained that the consultants from Texas Southern University had completed the 180-station survey. Staff was going to use data to create an interactive ArcGIS map on the website showcasing attributes of each station and use information to build upon bike-ped efforts.

- Mr. Hollier noted there were 20 – 30 stops that could potentially combine nearby Calcasieu Parish School Board with Lake Charles Transit stops.
- Ms. Mary Bass-Fontenot would like a transit station-like setup. Her concept was to have buses pick up and then go to adequate location with shelter and students can transfer. Ideally, it would utilize buses to full capacity.
- Mr. Hollier and Ms. Bass-Fontenot reiterated this opportunity.

D. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY 2019-22 Amendment XXI (Aggregated Record Item No. 40) – Resolution 2165

Mr. Council stated technical difficulties at last meeting, on December 10, 2020, prevented the following performance measures from being adopted. At that meeting, TPC voted to approve adoption of the performance measures, on the condition that TAC recommend this amendment them at the following meeting. The performance measures include:

- LCMPO supporting LaDOTD 2021 Safety Performance Measures and Targets
- LCMPO supporting Lake Charles Public Transit Agency Safety 2020 Safety Performance Measures and Targets
- LCMPO supporting Lake Charles Transit Asset Management Performance Measures and Targets.

TAC Chair Ms. Dowden requested action on the amendment. Ms. Bass-Fontenot Motioned to recommend TPC adoption of the amendment, as stated above. Motion seconded by Mr. John Bruce. The Chair called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

E. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Amendment III (Aggregated Record Item No. 4) – Resolution 2165

Mr. Council stated technical difficulties at last meeting, on December 10, 2020, prevented the following performance measures from being adopted. At that meeting, TPC voted to approve adoption of the performance measures, on the

condition that TAC recommend this amendment at the following meeting. The performance measures include:

- LCMPO supporting LaDOTD 2021 Safety Performance Measures and Targets
- LCMPO supporting Lake Charles Public Transit Agency Safety 2020 Safety Performance Measures and Targets
- LCMPO supporting Lake Charles Transit Asset Management Performance Measures and Targets.

TAC Chair Ms. Dowden requested action on the amendment. Ms. Bass-Fontenot Motioned to recommend TPC adoption of the amendment, as stated above. Motion seconded by Mr. John Bruce. The Chair called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2019 – 22 TIP Administrative Modifications

- 1) TIP Administrative Modification 17 (Aggregate Record Item No. 41)
Mr. Walter Council reported on project name change.
 - From LA 3092: Roundabout to LA 3092 (Gauthier Rd): @LA 3092 (Lake Street). Moved ROW and Utility phases from FY 20 to FY 22. Moved construction phase from FY 21 to FY 22.
- 2) TIP Administrative Modification 18 (Aggregate Record Item No. 42)
Mr. Walter Council shared the that 2 projects would be officially moved to the Information Projects section of the TIP:
 - i. Two projects previously approved by TPC moved from current TIP 2019 – 22, to outlier years in the next TIP 2023 – 26, as Informational Projects
 - ii. The two projects are the following:
 - H.0071122 Myrtle Spring into FY 23 in Aggregated Record Item No. 29
 - H.011065 Nelson Interchange Improvements into TBD FY in Aggregated Record Item No. 38

B. FY 2019-22 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 22 – (Aggregated Record Item No. 43)

1) TIP Amendment No. XXII

Mr. Council stated that construction phase of H.013870 Enterprise Boulevard, had expanded from Broad St. to 5th St to Broad St. to 12th St. In addition, the project description from full reconstruction to basic overlay, patchwork and water main improvement.

The 14-day Public Review/Hearing period was completed with no public comments.

- TAC Chair Ms. Dowden requested action on the amendment. Mr. John Cardone motioned to recommend TPC adoption of the amendment. Motion seconded by Mr. Nick Pestello. 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. Mayor Danahay motioned to recommend TPC adoption of the amendment, as stated above. Motion was seconded by Mayor Hardey. The Chair called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

C. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Program (MTP) Amendment 4 – (Aggregated Record Item No. 43) – Resolution No. MPO-2021-02

Mr. Walter Council stated the following projects were removed from the Fiscally Constrained Roadway and Freight Tables and Maps. The 14-day Public Review/Hearing period initiated by staff on 1/26/21.

- i. N-18: Nelson Rd extension bridge, since already in TIP FY 2019-22 as H.005967
 - ii. M-04: Enterprise Blvd, from Broad St to 12th St, since already in TIP FY 2019-22 as H.013870
 - iii. C-89: Ihles Rd, from W. Prien Lake Rd to Country Club Rd, since already in TIP FY 2019-22 as H.013812
 - iv. C-32: I-210 @ Nelson Rd Interchange, since previously in TIP FY 2019-22, but moved to TBD year in TIP FY 2023-26 as H.011065
 - v. C-68: Myrtle Springs Rd, from Houston River Rd north 1.4 miles, since previously in TIP FY 2019-22, but moved to FY 23 in TIP FY 2023-26 as H.007122
 - vi. M-18: LA 3092 Roundabout, at intersection of LA 3092 Gauthier Rd to LA 3092 Lake St, since already in TIP FY 2019-22 as H.012052
 - vii. M-17: LA 14 – LA 397 Roundabout, at intersection LA 14 Gerstner Memorial Dr at LA 397 Ward Line Rd. The project is not listed directly in the TIP or STIP, but indicated as Line Item L.000056 Misc Hazard Elimination and Safety in the TIP.
- TAC Chair Ms. Dowden requested action on the amendment. Ms. Mary Bass-Fontenot motioned to recommend TPC adoption of the amendment. Motion was seconded by Mr. John Cardone. 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. Don Duberville motioned to recommend TPC adoption of the amendment, as stated above. Motion was seconded by Mayor Danahay. The Chair called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. INFORMATION

A. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Mr. Hollier stated that there was currently no activity with regards to submitting TAC applications.

B. Motorist Assistance Program (M.A.P.)

Mr. Council shared the 2020 trends in tables for the M.A.P. The 2 elements presented in each table were "Incidents" and Services Provided", between September 2019 through December 2020.

- Activity was relatively steady until from September 2019 through July 2020.
- Activity decreased dramatically in August and September 2020, likely as result of Hurricane Laura.
- Activity increased dramatically in the months of October, November, and December 2020.

C. Transportation Safety Emphasis Area Action Items

Mr. Hollier shared that staff had talked with law enforcement agencies on ability to gather crash data. There will be continued and on-going efforts to gather and analyze this data.

D. Update on 5 Transportation Focus Work Tasks

Mr. Hollier updated on the following on-going work tasks, including a mention to complete as much as possibly by end of fiscal year:

- i. Bike/Ped Plan
 - New staff has increased capability to further initial development of MPO-wide bike/ped plan. The office is waiting to see if it will be successful with a grant that can expand a bike/ped plan to entire 5 parish region.
- ii. Roundabout Plan
 - Senior Transportation Specialist Claude Smart has developed a list of potential roundabout locations, with the assistance of jurisdictions that have provided their priority intersections.
- iii. Designated Corridor Plan
 - Senior Transportation Specialist Steve Jiles has developed a list of potential roundabout locations, with the assistance of jurisdictions that have provided their priority intersections.
- iv. Congestion Mitigation

- Working to assign staff member to this task as we continue to advance it.
- v. Designated Safety Problem Areas.
 - Working to develop this in conjunction with Roundabout and Corridor plans

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