

MINUTES

OCTOBER 21, 2021, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM, VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

TPC MEMBERS PRESENT (QUORUM)

Wes Crain (Chair) (Calcasieu Parish Police Jury)
Mayor Mike Danahay (City of Sulphur)
Don Duberville (LaDOTD District 7)
Carlos McCloud (FHWA) (Non-Voting Member)

LCMPO STAFF

Michael Hollier (Executive/MPO Director)
Jamie Gaines (Special Projects Manager)
Steve Jiles (Transportation Manager)
Walter Council (Planner III)
Brennan Marque
Justin Habetz
Michael Bernard
Ashifur Rahman
Claude Smart
Abby Coyle-Richards

OTHER

Brandee Franklin (City of Sulphur)

1. OPEN MEETING

- A. **Call to Order** – Wes Crain, TPC Chair, called the meeting to order.
- B. **Roll Call** – Mr. Crain requested Roll Call. Mr. Mike Hollier stated there was a quorum.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Walter Council

1. Project Status Report

Mr. Council and Mr. Hollier mentioned that the City of Sulphur was reviewing H.013870 Post Oak Road, as construction costs had increased from about \$700K - \$800K to \$2.2M.

Also, H.013870 Enterprise Road was still being evaluated by stakeholders, regarding certain sewer elements being federal aid eligible for construction funding.

2. Recommended Amendments

Mr. Hollier stated staff would continue to monitor and assist with any programming changes for these STP<200K funded projects.

- B. 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Call for Projects – Walter Council**
1. Current TIP Projects for Carryover
Mr. Council indicated there were 7 City of Lake Charles and 2 Calcasieu Parish projects submitted to be evaluated and scored.
 2. New Submittals Review Timeline
Staff is reviewing projects to set up scoring matrix.
 3. Review Procedures/Scoring Evaluation
Once all projects are evaluated with various criteria, then next step is to have TAC score those projects for prioritization in the next TIP FY 2023-26.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution No. 2022-01 Amending the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) – Steve Jiles**
Action requested.

Fiscally Constrained Road and Freight Section
Amendment 7 (Aggregate Record Item No. 10)

TAC has recommended removal of the following projects in the document with maps and explanations on each attachment for 1st Set of Projects Recommended for Removal: C-45, C-81, N-62, M-03, C-50, N-29, N-46, C-98, N-39, C-97, M-16, C-66, M-11, M-09, N-41, N-74, C-80, M-10, N-32, C-70, C-24, C-07, M-12, M-02 and N-33.

The TPC reviewed and discussed the TAC recommendations. Mr. Duberville motioned to remove projects from 2045 MTP, seconded by Mayor Danahay. The Motion was passed unanimously. Public Review/Hearing process to begin on 12/20/21.

- B. Identifying Priority Corridor Plans – Mike Hollier**
1. Country Club Road
 2. Ryan Street
 3. Broad Street
 4. New Chennault Access

Mr. Hollier asked to consider additional time to do more evaluation of arterial corridors. Not only the right-of-way aspect, but comprehensive review, with elements such as land use, access management, congestion management, etc.

Mr. Hollier shared that City of Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish, and Chennault have a stake in Chennault's master plan. Similarly, he recommended a comprehensive review of roadways, rather than isolated improvements. Piecemeal project implementation can occur but suggested a broader and comprehensive plan.

C. Major Arterial Buffers & Aesthetics – Mike Hollier

1. Interstate Buffers

Mr. Hollier suggested that when major arterials, like interstate, is place through an existing neighborhood, it is best practice for mitigation efforts be implemented by some agency to reduce noise and visual concerns., “If residential developer builds near major arterial, then they should be the entity to reduce noise and visual impacts.”

2. Interstate Aesthetics

Elements such as pampas grass in a median can both enhance visual impacts and provide a safety improvement. Request TPC provide their feedback on these type of interstate aesthetic improvements.

Mr. Hollier asked to continue to consider this item for future meetings. Mr. Crain agreed with the idea presented.

4. INFORMATION

A. MPO Website Update – Jamie Gaines

Ms. Jamie Gaines shared MPO website updates.

Highlights included an entire revamping of the website, more visually appealing, linking with I-10 bridge website and other IMCAL members sites. The MPO component of IMCAL’s website could stand-alone and be linked with the main one.

Mr. Crain stated the website was intuitive, bold icons, and easy to navigate.

Mr. Hollier stated it would be easy to interface on any electronic device.

B. New I-10 Bridge Status – Jamie Gaines

Ms. Gaines and Mr. Hollier noted that LaDOTD has provided a cost of \$940M. The overwhelming majority of cost would be borne by investor or investment group. LaDOTD is developing Request for Proposal, to solicit investors that want to make proposals to build and manage the bridge with tolls.

On a different note, Mr. Hollier stated the 2020 Census has indicated Lake Charles MPO area with slightly less than the 200,000 persons threshold in the urbanized area, to be a Transportation Management Area (TMA). However, the process of establishing updated MPO boundaries can be re-evaluated every 10 years, in concert with the Governor and FHWA. It is unlikely, Vinton and DeQuincy will be part of MPO, but other areas, like Iowa may be considered. The Census Bureau will provide the new urbanized boundaries in Spring 2022.

Mr. Jiles noted the CFR 49 5303, that states the Governor can be part of the process, since MPO area can include contiguous areas and land forecasted to be urbanized in 20-year forecasts.

Mr. Carlos McCloud stated that in previous years, various techniques have been utilized like rooftops, impervious surfaces, and cluster of these elements. However, the most important aspect for this process is the update of the functional classification system in the MPO area.


In many cases, a lot of roadways that might be classified as local roadways, especially east and west of the urbanized area, may be collectors in the future. He encouraged MPOs to begin looking at classification of roadways such as the push for corridor planning.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Danahay motioned to adjourn the TPC meeting, seconded by Mr. Duberville. The motion passed unanimously.



Wes Crain
Chair



Michael Hollier
Executive/MPO Directors