



Southwest Louisiana Regional Planning Commission (SWLA-RPC)  
Imperial Calcasieu Regional Planning & Development Commission (IMCAL)  
Louisiana Planning District 5

LAKE CHARLES URBANIZED AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (LCMPO)  
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC)

# MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2021, 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM, VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

## TPC MEMBERS PRESENT (QUORUM)

Wes Crain (Calcasieu Parish) (Chair)  
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 (District Transportation Manager)  
Walter Council (Planner III)  
Ashifur Rahman (Planner)  
Michael Bernard (GIS)  
Brennan Marque (GIS)  
Justin Habetz (GIS)

## GUEST

Angela Murrell (LaDOTD)  
Butch Babineaux (Fenstermaker)

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## 1. OPEN MEETING

### A. Roll Call

Mr. Wes Crain, TPC Chair, called the meeting to order and requested Roll Call. Mr. Mike Hollier stated there was a quorum.

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## 2. OLD BUSINESS

### A. 2045 Long Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Mr. Hollier noted that TAC, earlier in the morning, had reviewed and acted on the first 30 projects recommended for removal. Out of the 30 projects, 5 were recommended to be retained (C-100, C-103, C-102, C-46, and M-01), and 25 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

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N-33). The 2045 MTP is centered on regionally significant projects and not limited only to utilizing MPO funds. The 2045 MTP, must be amended to put projects in and qualified for the TIP.

Mr. Hollier stated the 2045 MTP has I-210 widening scheduled to be constructed before the I-10 bridge. An overall need is to get projects lined up for effective delivery. MPO's staff work is not only maintaining a spreadsheet on timelines and funds. There is a lot more involved, such as integration, cooperation, and comprehensiveness that goes into the process. A question arose from the TAC about other projects being reviewed, which he answered he is anxious to get to projects that can be viable. Mr. Crain noted that his understanding is that the MPO was to put all roadway and freight projects in the 2045 MTP, that anyone could think about, which is why so many projects are in there. Mr. Hollier responded affirmatively that it is true when you get started on the process but disagreed that so many projects were required in the final product delivery.

#### **B. Corridors in System Planning**

Mr. Hollier noted that when referring to corridor planning, it's not just discussing right-of-way but talking comprehensively about corridors, because you can engage land and business owners, utility companies and jurisdictions. He stated these are the corridors that have been identified as most important to address are the following:

1. East Prien Lake Road – 4 intersections involved as a major safety designated corridor, because of continually rising crash rates, with this portion in the City of Lake Charles.
2. Ryan Street – LaDOTD has committed funding needed for safety improvements at about \$8M, including around McNeese Street. However, this is strictly safety, not capacity improvement. If there was some way you could begin to merge or blend activities like safety and congestion, that would be optimal. Other factors should be considered.
3. Ihles Road – This is a good example of not being prepared to move projects like this forward. He asked CoLC what is now needed with Ihles Road.
4. Country Club Road – Some TPC members have attended meetings on Country Club Road. This road has been identified typically in conversations. It is partially in city and parish, but also a LaDOTD roadway.
  - This is major opportunity for cooperation. The 2045 MTP has several projects, on this roadway, but all issues related to this corridor should be evaluated. For example, church leader on the road mentioned flooding issues at his location. Evaluating these issues is part of process.
  - The IMCAL planning district has identified regional initiative to start building resiliency in infrastructure, including objectives to place utilities underground. Mr. Hollier had conversation with developers on tackling this problem and suggested 2-block increments as optimal way to put utilities underground, which mitigates loss of customers to businesses.

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### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Resolution No. 2021-09 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Amendment Amendment 6 (Aggregate Record Item No. 7)**

Mr. Walter Council noted that TAC recommended TPC adoption of the following Calcasieu Parish overlay projects, known as MPO – CPPJ Supplemental Overlay Program – Phase 1A, to Stage I of the Fiscally Constrained Roadway and Freight Section of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan:

- M-20: Crawford Dr from Joe Miller Rd to Gateway Dr.
- M-21: Broad Street from U.S. 90 (Frugé St) to Swift Plant Rd.

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- M-22: Country Club Rd from Nelson Rd to Big Lake Rd.
- M-23: Elliot Rd from Ham Reid Rd to Country Club Rd.
- M-24: Ihles Rd from W. Prien Lake Rd to Country Club Rd.
- M-25: Choupique Rd from LA 108 to 0.865 miles north of Sandra Dr.
- M-26: Patton St from Sulphur City Limits to Post Oak Rd.
- M-27: W. Houston River Rd from WPA Rd to North Claiborne St.

The 14-day Public Review/Hearing period was initiated by staff on 9-13-21.

Mr. Don Duberville motioned, to adopt Resolution No. 2021-09 MPO – CPPJ Supplemental Overlay Program – Phase 1A as 2045 MTP Amendment 6, seconded by Mayor Danahay. The Motion was passed unanimously.

**B. Resolution No. 2021-10 on Amending Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2019-22**

1. Highway Element

Amendment 25 (Aggregate Record Item No. 49)

Mr. Walter Council stated that TAC recommended TPC adoption to amend the TIP in response to City of Lake Charles request to cancel and remove Project No. H.013812 Ihles Rd: W. Prien Lake – Country Club Rd, totaling \$7,997M (w/ 10% contingency) using STP<200K funds from FY 22. Funding balance amount to be split evenly between City of Lake Charles and Calcasieu Parish, at \$3,998.5M each. Secondly, reallocate City of Lake Charles’ portion from cancelled H.013812 Ihles Rd and reallocate to H.013870 Enterprise Road: Broad St. to 12th St., totaling \$3,998.5M (w/ 10% contingency), using STP<<200K funds. City of Lake Charles will provide 100% local addition of \$281.5K. Calcasieu Parish’s portion will fund “To Be Decided Projects”.

- 14-day Public Review/Hearing period was initiated by staff on 7-20-21.

Mayor Danahay motioned, to adopt Resolution No. 2021-10 Removal of Project No. H.013812 Ihles Rd: W. Prien from W. Prien Lake – Country Club Rd and Reallocating Funds to “To Be Decided Projects” for Calcasieu Parish as TIP Amendment 25, seconded by Mr. Duberville. The Motion was passed unanimously.

2. Highway Element

Amendment 26 (Aggregate Record Item No. 52)

Mr. Council stated that the TAC recommended TPC adoption to conditionally amend in the TIP, following public review without opposition from Public Review/Hearing, on the multiple Calcasieu Parish overlay projects from Stage I of the Fiscally Constrained Roadway and Freight Section of 2045 MTP into FY 22 of the TIP FY 2019-22. These Calcasieu Parish overlay projects will utilize \$3.1M STP<200K reallocated funds from cancelled H.013812 Ihles Road Project. Projects will be programmed into the TIP and await LaDOTD Project Numbers. Reference Meeting Agenda Attachment A.

- 14-day Public Review/Hearing process to begin 9-13-21.

Mr. Don Duberville motioned, to adopt Resolution 2021-10 MPO – CPPJ Supplemental Overlay Program – Phase 1A as TIP Amendment 26, seconded by Mayor Danahay. The Motion was passed unanimously.

**C. Resolution No. 2021-14 Amending Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2019-22**

Highway Element

Amendment 27 (Aggregate Record Item No. 53)

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Mr. Council stated that the TAC recommended TPC adoption to the TIP, the IMCAL MPO Planning Services FY 2021 – 22, to include an array of supplemental planning activities. Project uses STP<200K funds at \$350K (80% Fed Share).

- 14-day Public Review/Hearing process to begin 9-16-21.

Mr. Hollier noted that this official funding is targeted to evaluate projects in the 2045 MTP. Mr. Danahay motioned, to adopt Resolution No. 2021-14 IMCAL MPO Planning Services FY 2021 - 22 as TIP Amendment 27, seconded by Mr. Duberville. The Motion was passed unanimously.

**D. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY 2019 – 22**

Mr. Council reported the following administrative modifications to the TIP.

1. Highway Element Section  
Administrative Modification 22 (Aggregate Record Item No. 50)  
Move construction phase of h.005967 Nelson Rd Ext & Bridge from FY 21 to FY 22, Adjusted construction phase of H.011839 Henning D/ Weekly Rd Overlay, from \$800K in STP<200K at 80/20 in FY 21 to \$435K in STP< 200K-E at 80/20 and \$536K in STP<200K at 80/20 in FY 21 for a total of \$971K.
2. Highway Element Section  
Administrative Modification 23 (Aggregate Record Item No. 51)  
Changed TIP Amendment 25 from Resolution 2021-09 to Resolution 2021-10.

**E. Resolution No. 2021-11 MPO Roundabout Plan**

Mr. Hollier noted that TAC has reviewed and referenced multiple sources for the proposed MPO Roundabout Plan as a long-term objective for the region. Question was raised what impact would plan have for LaDOTD. Mr. Hollier explained the plan was not a mandate, but a point of reference. He added there are actions local governments can do to bring regulatory mechanisms into play, should they choose to incorporate proposed roundabouts into their comprehensive plans, such as identifying setbacks and other requirements for developers considering building at these intersections. He concluded by stating roundabouts are part of a foundation for building a strong and viable transportation plan and program.

Mr. Hollier responded to Mr. Crain's question about right-of-way preservation, stating it is more optimal to be pro-active in creating a plan to protect right-of-way from development, so entities avoid having to go through eminent domain for properties on vital corridors or intersections, years later and more expensively. LaDOTD also has put in signal lights at roundabout recommended intersections, as a stop gap, before building the circular infrastructure. All indicated roundabouts, in the plan, have a sketch, metrics, and additional guidance, on implementing roundabout.

Mr. Hollier stated that the TAC recommended TPC approval for Roundabout Plan for short/long range transportation planning and development in the Urban Area. Mr. Don Duberville motioned, to adopt Resolution No. 2021-11 MPO Roundabout Plan, seconded by Mayor Danahay. The Motion was passed unanimously.

**F. Resolution No. 2021-12 MPO Bikeway and Pedestrian Plan**

Mr. Council noted that there is a 2045 MTP Prioritized Bike/Ped plan. The proposed plan is not the same thing. Adding that this is a more concise plan, with more opportunity for project delivery. Mr.

Lee Boyer and Mr. Jon Manns volunteered, along with staff, to come up with the new plan. The plan considered access, safety, and connectivity as factors. The costs presented are preliminary.

- Mr. Hollier noted that the current 2045 MTP Prioritized Bike/Ped plan would be replaced with this plan. Additionally, IMCAL was able to secure a state grant for \$250K to extend the MPO Bikeway and Pedestrian Plan throughout the 5-parish region. There are other similar bike/ped opportunities being monitored.
- Mr. Duberville asked about paths near railroad right-of-way mentioned in the plan. Mr. Hollier noted there are precedents, such as the Tammany Trace on north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. It is a huge success story, including economically, and the state believes if a local option is identified, this could be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tammany Trace. Mr. Jiles noted these are not mainline rail lines but spurs. Mr. Crain recalled that this had been a previous discussion when Rail-to-Trail rules were first initiated, and there was a lot of push back from neighboring property owners. Adjacent landowners were concerned that people would get off trail onto their property. Mayor Danahay said he also recalled that private property owner concern.

Mayor Danahay motioned, to adopt Resolution No 2021-12 MPO Bikeway and Pedestrian Plan, seconded by Mr. Duberville. The Motion was passed unanimously.

**G. Resolution No. 2021-13 Designated Safety Corridor: East Prien Lake Road**

Mr. Council noted that TAC has recommended TPC approval of a proposed East Prien Lake Road Designated Safety Corridor for the region, including four (4) intersections. He noted that this is first project for a Local Road Safety Plan for Calcasieu Parish. Louisiana Technical Assistance Program held a Road Safety Audit with LCMPO staff and stakeholders, in which engineers and planners met on location to assess concerns and submit recommendations, such as moving aerial utilities underground or further back.

Mr. Don Duberville motioned, to adopt Resolution No. 2021-13 Designated Safety Corridor: East Prien Lake Road, seconded by Mayor Danahay. The Motion was passed unanimously.

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#### 4. INFORMATION

**A. MPO Website Development – Jamie Gaines**

1. Inclusion Items – Ms. Jamie Gaines noted work on a new MPO website was underway. The website developer has provided a great product delivery. The idea is to have 3 distinct but cohesive websites for transportation, safety, and economic development.
2. Development Timeline – Ms. Gaines stated this effort is being pursued within the next few months.


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#### 5. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Crain wanted to thank Mr. Hollier and his staff for great work for the MPO.

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

  
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Wes Crain  
Chair

  
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Michael Hollier  
Executive/MPO Director