

**M E E T I N G M I N U T E S**

**HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting**

**Date:** April 05, 2012

**Meeting Location:** SCPDC's Pelican Room, Gray, LA.

**In Attendance**

<b>Committee:</b>	Danny Babin, MPO Chairman (TPCG Council Member) – Present Tommy Eschete, MPO Vice Chair (Mayor City of Thibodaux) – Absent Arlanda Williams (TPCG Council Member) – Proxy Al Levron Brandon Buckner (FHWA, Non-Voting) - Absent Charlotte Randolph (Lafourche Parish President) – Proxy Terry Arabie Dirk Guidry (TPCG Council Member) – Present Greg Hood (TPCG Council Member) – Present Marty Triche (Assumption Parish Police Jury President) – Absent Michael Stack (LA DOTD District 02 Administrator) – Proxy Lyle Leblanc Michel Claudet (Terrebonne Parish President) – Present Richard Champagne (Mayor Town of Lockport) – Absent
<b>Staff:</b>	Kevin Belanger, SCPDC Leo Marretta, SCPDC Joshua Manning, SCPDC Rudynah Capone, SCPDC Scott Leger, SCPDC Cassie Parker, SCPDC
<b>Others in Attendance:</b>	Joan Schexnayder, TPCG Jack Gardner TPCG Duffy Duplantis, TPCG Patrick Gordon, TPCG Mart Black, Providence K. Kraemor, SAIC Warren Gonzalas, Assumption ARC Doug Bourg, TPCG

D. Babin called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00pm.

Invocation: L. Marretta

Pledge of Allegiance: D. Guidry.

Roll Call and Submittal of Proxy Letters: L. Marretta.

Introductions took place.

**Agenda Item # 1**

*Public Comment or Public Hearing (if applicable)*

D. Babin asked if there was anyone from the public that wished to address the committee. There was no one that wished to address the committee.

**Agenda Item # 2**

*Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2012 meeting*

It was motioned by G. Hood to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2012 meeting. T. Arabie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item # 3**

*Current LADOTD Projects Update (Lyle Leblanc, LADOTD Area Engineer)*

L. Leblanc gave project updates.

Grand Isle/ Fourchon/ Larose:

- Bike paths are almost completed.
- New Caminada Bridge is open and has traffic on it. The old bridge should begin being dismantled next week.
- L. Leblanc spoke of the accident in Fourchon that took two teenagers lives. Although there is signage there, it has been decided to add rumble strips and a flashing red stop sign in an attempt to prevent an accident like this from occurring again.
- There will be changes taken place with the toll system on the Leeville Bridge. A "pay on-site" credit card and cash machine will be placed in one of the lanes. The Geaux Pass will still be available. However, if an individual does not have a Geaux Pass, he/she can pay on the bridge.
- There is an overlay scheduled around August on the four lane section of LA 3235. The first section will be overlaid.
- Larose Bridge (Lift Bridge) is scheduled to be completed in May.

Bourg/ Montegut/Chauvin:

- Overlaying on LA 24 in Bourg was just completed.
- A turn lane was added at Lecompte Drive.
- Two turn lanes were added at Montegut Elementary School.
- Right turn lanes were added at South Terrebonne High School.
- Overlay coming up on LA 58, between Montegut and Chauvin this summer.
- Almost finish reinforcing the Boudreaux Canal Bridge – the girders were beginning to deteriorate, so new girders were added.

Houma

- Next project up is Prospect. An 18 wheeler knocked out a light last week which caused some issues. The bridge is scheduled to be completed in June 2012.

- Grand Caillou overlay has been pushed back until December 2012 due to utility relocations.
- An overlay should be taking place in August on US 90 from the parish line heading East towards LA 182.
- Next week the lights in the tunnel will be changed; therefore, causing some night time closures to take place.

L. Marretta stated that the Tunnel Replacement Project just went through the Stage 0 to make it an official project. He further explained that through communications between the MPO and DOTD, it is understood that there is no funding at this time. However, there are state legislators and locally elected officials that are pursuing ways to receive the funding.

M. Black referred to the letting list for Terrebonne Parish, the project on the Houma Navigational Canal Bridge. He asked if it should be assumed that The Houma Navigational Bridge will be out of operation this month. L. Leblanc stated that he does not believe that the closures will be extended closures, but he will find out more information.

#### **Agenda Item # 4**

*Locally Funded Projects Updates (Parish/Municipal Staff and/or Consultants)*

#### ***Terrebonne:***

M. Claudet gave locally funded project updates for Terrebonne Parish.

- Working on Dularge Bridge off of LA 315 that will replace Dr. Beatrous Road Bridge
- Begun all the workings to replace the Falgout Canal Pontoon Bridge in Dulac. Trying to determine the size of the bridge with the widening of channel, the new lock and any other factors that need to be taken into account.
- Thompson Road embankment is basically completed. It will take some time for everything to get squared away.
- Country Drive widening- almost in the land acquisition stage. Signed contracts for the appraisers. Therefore, this project should be beginning fairly quickly.
- St. Anne Bridge- Doing the structures on the bridge. Bridge itself should be started around July 2012 and completed by July 2013.
- Valhi extension- concrete work has begun.
- Bayou Gardens extension- plans are 95 percent complete. Waiting to finalize the agreement with the last land owner and two pipelines. Once finalized the embankment will be built up. Then it should be about 10 months before the project can continue.
- Expect to complete placement of a turn lane and hopefully a signal at Denley Road and Industrial.

M. Claudet then requests that A. Levron gives an update on Hollywood Road. A. Levron states that 34 tracks of land had to be acquired. He believes there are 5 tracks remaining -- all are at various stages of completion. Plans and specifications are being developed at this time for utility relocation. The utility phase is expected to take up to a year until completed. The letting date for the road itself is currently September of 2013.

**Lafourche:**

T. Arabie gave locally funded project updates for Lafourche Parish.

- The overlay project from the town of Golden Meadow has been awarded. This project will begin once the necessary signatures are received.
- Work has begun on the Burma Bridge Project.
- LA 24 relocation- A meeting has been scheduled to discuss right of ways.
- Laura Valley Road will hopefully be completed by May.
- Lafourche has everything in line to do the bid for a Maintenance Contract for minor drainage and minor road work for the southern part of the parish.

**Agenda Item # 5**

*Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update (Josh Manning, MPO Staff)*

J. Manning gave the committee the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan update. In February of 2011, meetings began to take place to discuss bicycle and pedestrian issues. At the beginning of this year, it was decided that it was necessary to meet with each parish to show what has been uncovered so far and to get their ideas and suggestions. From there, a region wide map was developed of proposed and existing routes based on the conversations with the representatives of each parish.

**Assumption:**

- Assumption has requested that the plan concentrate on the highway going up from LA 1 to Bayou L'ourse Community. They have the railroad right of way, which would be an extension of another project that is in Lafourche Parish.
- LA 70 Highway that goes down Pierre Park and ultimately to Lake Verret.

**Lafourche:**

- There are projects that are already in the works for Thibodaux along Acadian Road Highway -- circle in Peltier Park that comes out to LA 1, loop in Raceland and a loop in Chackbay- Bayou Buff area.
- It was suggested to create a bike trail on LA 1 south of the Intracoastal which would terminate at the park in Golden Meadow.

**Terrebonne:**

- Southdown loop that Terrebonne has been working on.
- Another loop on the South side of the parish has been considered. It would go down Bayou Salle Road and up and down LA 56 and LA 57.
- On 311- Southdown Mandalay and Bull Run.

J. Manning stated that the next step is to add schools and parks to the maps to make sure all connections are being made, as well as any other suggestions that anyone has for the plan.

Once all of the information is gathered, SCPDC would like to create a document to bring to each of the jurisdictions that would show this region wide bicycle and pedestrian plan. The document will show how each project is ranked and prioritized and will also include cost estimates.

M. Claudet stated that he recently visited Arizona and he noticed that bike lanes were painted on the shoulders of state highways. He asked J. Manning why this is not happening in our region. J. Manning replied that he plans on recommending that in the plan. He further explained that DOTD has recently adopted a Complete Streets Policy. This policy states that when a road is being created or overlaid, projects such as bicycle trails/ sidewalks should be included.

L. Marretta goes further to explain that part of the prioritization process is looking for linkages that connect other existing projects. For example, if there is a project on the letting schedule that plans to resurface the roadway and that roadway is also on the Bicycle Plan as a suggested bike path, it will receive a higher score in terms of DOTD and their Complete Streets Policy.

### **Agenda Item # 6**

*Safe Community Task Force Update (Dynah Capone, MPO Staff)*

D. Capone gave the Safe Community Task Force update by announcing that South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) is this year's recipient of the NADO Excellence in Regional Transportation Award for the South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) highway safety efforts.

She thanked the Coalition; because it is not just SCPDC, it is because of all jurisdictions in the MPO area and river parishes that we are able to receive this award. She also stated that without everyone's support and cooperation, we would not have received this honor.

D. Capone informed the committee that she gave a presentation at the statewide DOTD Safety Summit in Baton Rouge. South Central Safe Community Partnership is being recognized as the very first coalition to adopt the regional version of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). The SHSP is a data driven plan that aims to reducing fatalities.

D. Capone stated that SCSCP will be participating in the State Police's Second Annual Bayou Region Safety Expo on April 21, 2012 and the Click It or Ticket campaign which takes place May 14 through June 3, 2012. She also announced that on September 27, 2012, SCSCP will have the Regional Traffic Safety Summit at the Houma- Terrebonne Civic Center. D. Capone thanked M. Claudet for his support and assistance with the venue for the event because he approved the waiver of all fees for the event.

On the infrastructure side of safety, the MPO are coordinating with the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) team in Baton Rouge to perform the Road Safety Assessments (RSA's) to address local road safety issues. The goal is to improve those high crash locations and reduce the number of fatalities on the roadway.

The first Road Safety Assessment (RSA) will be done in Lafourche Parish and headed by T Arabie.

**Agenda Item # 7**

*Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Report (Josh Manning, MPO Staff)*

J. Manning stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on May 8, 2012. He also explained that since this was a public meeting an ad was placed to inform the public. The Technical Advisory Committee was reviewing the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) to recommend to the Policy Committee meeting for adoption as per our bylaws. The Technical Advisory Committee did make the recommendation for the Policy Committee to adopt the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

The TAC also reviewed the list of intersections that potential improvements could be made to. J. Manning then advised the Policy Committee to turn their agenda's to tab 7b to view the Potential Project Worksheet. The list is divided into two sections, LTAP safety improvements and Potential Roundabout Locations/ Other locations. The next phases are to rank and prioritize these projects more in depth.

**Agenda Item # 8**

*UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) - Resolution to Adopt*

D. Babin asked if there was anyone that would like to motion to accept the Technical Advisory Committee's recommendation and adopt the Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2013.

It was motioned by G. Hood to adopt the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) T. Arabie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item # 9**

*TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) - Resolution to Adopt*

D. Babin asked if there was anyone that would like to motion to accept the Technical Advisory Committee's recommendation and adopt the Transportation Improvement Program fo FY 2013.

It was motioned by D. Guidry to adopt the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) T. Arabie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item # 10**

*Other Business*

*Title VI Plan Update (Leo Marretta, MPO Staff)*

*Census 2010 New Urbanized Area Population Figures (Josh Manning, MPO Staff)*

L. Marretta informed the Policy Committee that the MPO has received a conditional approval from DOTD's Title VI's office with our proposed Title VI program. DOTD recommended that the title of the document be changed. The title was the Public Participation Plan; however, DOTD would like the words Title VI to be part of the title so it is more recognizable. It was also

recommended to name a person from South Central Planning and Development Commission as a contact, and also have a complaint procedure that is defined in the plan. L. Marretta states that these changes are taking place at this time.

J. Manning gave the New Urbanized Area Population Figures for the Census 2010. He stated the big change is that it moved north and is more in Napoleonville. In 2000, the urban area's population was approximately 125,000. The population for 2010 is now approximately 145,000. The increase in population may or may not mean something significant because the new transportation bill has not been passed at this time. J. Manning also informs the committee that there is another urbanized area in Louisiana that had not existed until now which is in Hammond.

**Agenda Item # 11**

*HTMPO Meeting Calendar*

*Next Policy Committee Meeting - Thursday, July 5, 2012 at 11:30 A.M.*

L. Marretta explains the HTMPO and SCPDC Transportation Division calendar for 2012-2013 to the Policy Committee.

**Agenda Item # 12**

*Adjournment*

It was motioned by G. Hood to adjourn the meeting D. Guidry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT