

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

**HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting**

**Date:** October 24, 2013

**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) – Proxy Luci Sposito Arlanda Williams (TPCG Council Member) – Proxy Al Levron Brandon Buckner (FHWA, Non-Voting) - Absent Charlotte Randolph (Lafourche Parish President) – Proxy Robert “Bob” Passman Dirk Guidry (TPCG Council Member) – Present Greg Hood (TPCG Council Member) – Proxy Pat Gordon Marty Triche (Assumption Parish Police Jury President) – Absent Michael Stack (LA DOTD District 02 Administrator) – Proxy Lyle Leblanc Michel Claudet (Terrebonne Parish President) – Present Paul Champagne (Mayor Town of Lockport) – Absent
<b>Staff:</b>	Kevin Belanger, SCPDC Leo Marretta, SCPDC Scott Leger, SCPDC Jo-Anna Jones, SCPDC Rudynah Capone, SCPDC Cassie Parker, SCPDC Tom Watkins, SCPDC
<b>Others in Attendance:</b>	Doug Bourg, TPCG Henry Richard, Richard Development Matt Johns, LADOTD Michael Vince, LDEQ Terry Dupre, Meyer Engineer

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

Invocation: P. Gordon

Pledge of Allegiance: S. Leger

Roll Call and Submittal of Proxy Letters:

C. Parker informed the committee of the following proxies:

- Mr. Lyle Leblanc will serve as proxy for Mr. Michael Stack
- Mr. Pat Gordon will serve as proxy for Councilman Greg Hood
- Mr. Bob Passman will serve as proxy for Parish President Randolph
- Mr. Al Levron will serve as proxy for Councilwoman Arlanda Williams
- Ms. Luci Sposito will serve as proxy for Mayor Tommy Eschete

**Agenda Item # 1**

*General Public Comment*

*Mr. Henry Richard with Richard Development made a public comment in regards to turn lane arrows on LA 3040 near City Place Drive.*

**Agenda Item # 2**

*Approval of Minutes from July 25, 2013 meeting*

***It was motioned by D. Guidry to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2013 meeting. P. Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

**Agenda Item # 3**

*Letting Schedules and Current LADOTD Projects Update (Lyle Leblanc, LADOTD)*

L. Leblanc updated the Policy Committee on the following projects:

- The St. Anne Bridge is scheduled for an inspection in November 2013.
- The Presque Isle Bridge is currently being painted. It is expected to be completed within the next few weeks.
- Once Presque Isle Bridge is completed, DOTD will begin work on Bayou LaCarpe Bridge.
- There is still utility relocation taking place on Highway 57. The widening project, from Thompson Road to Industrial Boulevard, should begin construction during the middle of winter.
- A bike path is being constructed in Grand Isle at this time.
- Since the new light fixtures were installed in the Houma Tunnel, there have been four instances of trucks hitting the lights. Approximately \$60,000 in damages has occurred in less than one year. Guardrails have been installed in order to avoid further light damages from occurring.
- Additional Northbound lanes will be added at Howard Avenue.
- Additional Northbound lanes will be added at Savanne Road and 311.

M. Claudet asked if DOTD has studied the issue on Highway 24, near the UPS store. He explained that the problem with drainage causes water to remain on the roadway. L. Leblanc responded that LADOTD has surveyed the roadway and it is in the design phase. L. Sposito informed L. Leblanc that the Acadian West Trails project has been shifted to another project because the property was unable to be acquired. She stated that he could contact Michael Domingue to confirm. L. Leblanc mentioned that there are plans of placing a roundabout at Hollywood Road and LA 182.

**Agenda Item # 4**

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

***Terrebonne Parish:***

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

- Hollywood Road has been let and bids have come out.
- More right of ways has been acquired for Westside Boulevard. Westside Boulevard will continue through to the Carol Matherne Bridge, and a traffic light will be installed at Martin Luther King and Westside Boulevard.

- Construction should begin on Thompson Road in January 2014.
- The embankment is very close to being completed on the Bayou Gardens extension. Once that is completed, the parish will have to wait approximately ten months in order to overlay the roadway.
- Most of the rights of ways have been acquired for the Country Drive widening project.
- The parish is just finishing up the Industrial Boulevard and Denley Road projects. A left turn lane was installed on Industrial Boulevard, and a right turn lane was installed on Denley Road. A traffic light was also installed.
- The parish will be installing a left turn lane at Bayou Gardens Boulevard and St. Louis Canal Road.
- A right turn lane will be installed at Main Street and Prospect Street.

L. Sposito gave locally funded project updates for the City of Thibodaux.

- Tiger Drive Bridge is underway.
- The Canal Pedestrian Crossing is underway.
- Thibodaux Bayou Boardwalk is in the design phase.

B. Passman gave locally funded project updates for Lafourche Parish.

- There are approximately \$14 million dollars of road repairs throughout the parish that need to be done.
- There are plans to resurface Bayou Blue Bypass Road.

There were no representatives from Assumption Parish or the Town of Lockport to give an update.

#### **Agenda Item # 5**

*South Central Planning and Development Commission's Transportation Division Quarterly Activity Reports & Sub-Committee Reports*

#### **South Central Regional Transportation Safety Program Update** ***(Rudynah Capone, SCPDC Transportation Division Staff)***

R. Capone informed the committee that the coalition, Lafourche Parish, the City of Thibodaux, and the Louisiana Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) have collaborated in order to review the low cost safety improvements that are expected to take place at six locations, namely Audubon, Acadian, St. Patrick, Forty Arpent, Gheens Shortcut Road and Lefort Bypass. She stated that an evaluation of the infrastructure component of the Regional Transportation Safety Plan was conducted. The infrastructure component is at 70 percent in overall implementation. The areas of behavior modification have been completed as follows: impaired driving is 90 percent completed, occupant protection is 82 percent completed and young drivers are 83 percent completed. R. Capone informed the committee that the maps of all horizontal curve locations in the six parishes (Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. John the Baptist, St. James, and St. Charles) have been updated and submitted to each parish. She stated that the next South Central Safe Community Partnership meeting will take place on November 21, 2013 and will serve as the kick off meeting for the Zero for December Campaign. The committee was also informed that the South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) will be receiving an award,

the FHWA National Road Safety Award, for the coalition's highway safety initiatives throughout the region. She added that the SCSCP Safety Plan will be highlighted in the Noteworthy Practices Guide, which will be distributed to all partners nationwide. R. Capone updated the committee that the LA 3235 project, which includes the placement of rumble strips, signal ahead warning signs and upgraded signage was let in August.

**Regional Transit Committee Update**  
***(Scott Leger, SCPDC Transportation Division Staff)***

S. Leger informed the committee that the last regularly scheduled Regional Transit meeting was held on September 17th; there were 21 attendees. He stated that the committee was updated as to what took place at the annual DOTD Coordination Workshop. The committee was also reminded to submit TIP letters by December 6, 2013, so the letters could be reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee during their next meeting. During the Regional Transit Committee, Joshua Manning updated the committee on the status of the transit website (SouthLouisianaTransit.org). S. Leger goes further to state that Jeffery Leuenberger updated the transit committee on Lafourche Parish's transit efforts. K. Belanger stated that he believes that Joni Tuck went to the Lafourche Council to get approval for South Central Planning and Development Commission to apply for the Federal grant funding and approval of the local match needed for the transit efforts. S. Leger informed the committee that he and C. Parker will attend the next Bayou Area Readiness and Recovery (BARR) meeting. L. Marretta added that hurricane preparedness and evacuation measures are discussed during these meetings. S. Leger also stated that he and C. Parker will attend the Louisiana Transit Conference in New Orleans from November 20-22. C. Parker informed the committee that the Regional Transit Committee requested a grant workshop during their last meeting. The workshop was held on October 23, 2013. She stated that the workshop went well and there was participation from the local transit agencies and LADOTD.

**Agenda Item # 6**  
***MTP Updates***

L. Marretta stated that South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) have been forwarded copies of a contract to update the regional long range plan, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for 2040. He stated that the Policy Committee was emailed a question regarding the local match needed for a portion of the funding. He stated that there is also DOTD and FHWA approval pending for the Policies and Procedures Manual for hiring consultants. L. Marretta explained that other experts may be needed throughout the course of the plan update, specifically with regards to transportation modeling, engineering and pricing questions. He stated one objective is to form a working committee comprised of representatives from each of the parishes that would meet monthly to discuss the plan. L. Marretta explained that last time the plan was updated, DOTD paid the complete cost. However, DOTD has required that the costs be shared for this update and that DOTD and the HTMPO will split the cost 50/50. The proposal is for the HTMPO's half to come out of the STP < 200K funds. L. Marretta explained that, if the funds come from the STP < 200K funds, it requires a 20 percent local match. The commission proposed that the local match needed, \$50,000, would be prorated similarly to the way our member jurisdiction's annual dues are paid to the MPO.

D. Babin asked for clarification with regards to the amount of time each parish/municipality has to pay their prorated amount. M. Johns from DOTD confirmed that each parish/municipality has fourteen months to pay their portion.

M. Johns commended the HTMPO for being one of the first MPO's to update the plan in-house. He added that completing the update in-house is cost saving and DOTD would like to see other MPO's follow a model similar to this. K. Belanger stated that before the contract is signed, the parishes/municipalities must agree to pay their share of the local match. M. Claudet confirmed that Terrebonne Parish will contribute their portion of the local match.

***It was motioned by D. Guidry to approve that each parish/municipality will contribute to the 20 percent local match proportionally based upon the percentage of population of their jurisdiction to the population of the MPO as a whole with the understanding that representatives from the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO) will go before the parish/municipality council for approval of the funding. P. Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

#### **Agenda Item # 7**

##### *Travel Demand Management Update*

L. Marretta explained that DOTD was unable to find 100% funding for the previous comprehensive Travel Demand Management (TDM) proposal that the MPO had submitted. However, DOTD did locate 100% funding for TDM proposals that focus on car and vanpooling. He informed the committee that a revised TDM proposal emphasizing car and vanpooling could be located in their meeting packets. M. Johns stated that this newly submitted TDM proposal must be included in the Statewide TIP (STIP) before DOTD can receive federal authorization. He explained that this process can range from two weeks to two months.

#### **Agenda Item # 8**

##### *Ozone and Particulate Matter Advance Update*

Jo-Anna Jones of SCPDC presented a PowerPoint presentation to update the committee on the MPO's Ozone and Particulate Matter Advance Program for the US EPA. She reiterated to the committee that the ozone standard has been tightened to 0.075 parts per million. She stated that in order to stay in attainment, the region's three year average of the highest monitor readings must be below the standard. J. Jones reminded the committee of the possible effects if the area would move out of attainment, as well as the expected benefits of being proactive. She informed the committee that SCPDC has submitted a Path Forward document for the MPO's three parishes (Assumption, Lafourche and Terrebonne,). She showed pictures of the local Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) station located at Industrial Boulevard and South Van Avenue in Houma. She requested that the Policy Committee inform SCPDC of anything that they are aware of that is currently or planned to happen with regards to ozone and particulate matter in order to inventory our region's efforts. She adds that, by inventorying our efforts, we can improve our standing by showing our proactive efforts.

M. Claudet informed J. Jones that Terrebonne Parish will be placing in its budget, a quarter of a million dollars each year in order to pay the incremental cost on replacing vehicles. He stated that as the parish replaces the older vehicles, they will gradually purchase vehicles that use CNG.

J. Jones stated that CNG stations range from \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million, depending on the size, land, and other factors. She added that the approximate cost for a regular station is \$1.2 million. M. Vince then reviewed the EPA's design value table showing our region's past performance with the Policy Committee. He stated that, as of August 30, 2013, the MPO area is under the 75 parts per billion. He stated that EPA was planning on announcing a new standard in December of 2013, but it has been decided that the new standard will not be proposed until 2014.

**Agenda Item # 9**

*State Transportation Plan Update*

L. Marretta encouraged the committee to have their elected officials get in contact with DOTD while they are updating the state-wide long range transportation plan in order to campaign for mega projects in our area such as LA 1, the Houma Tunnel, and the North-South connection to the river. He stated that as part of this process all mega projects from across the state are getting ranked in terms of prioritization for funding. The upcoming "DOTD Roadshows" (Public Hearings in each DOTD District to receive comments on the proposed State FY 2014-2015 Highway Priority Program and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program) provide a good opportunity to accomplish this.

**Agenda Item # 10**

*DOTD Roadshow 2014-15*

L. Marretta reminded the committee of the dates of the upcoming DOTD Roadshow. He distributed packets from DOTD listing their jurisdiction's projects within the proposed State FY 2014-2015 Highway Priority Program to the parish presidents and mayors.

**Agenda Item # 11**

*Other Business*

A. AMPO Award

L. Marretta informed the Policy Committee that the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO) was awarded the 2013 Association of Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) National Award for Overall Achievement for a Non-TMA MPO.

*The Association of MPOs - AMPO is a nonprofit, membership organization established to serve the needs and interests of "Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)" nationwide, which have responsibility for planning, programming and coordination of federal highway and transit investments. The AMPO Annual Awards are designed to honor those MPOs that have found ways to advance their organizations by embracing the planning process and shaping sustainable regions. This year our MPO has been awarded the national AMPO award for "Outstanding Overall Achievement for a non-TMA MPO", for which the evaluation criteria are Innovation, Impact of Profession, Implementation and Coordination*

**Agenda Item # 9**

*HTMPO Meeting Calendar*

*Next Policy Committee Meeting - Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 11:30 A.M.*

**Agenda Item # 10**

*Adjournment*

***It was motioned by D. Guidry to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1:25 p.m., A. Levron seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

DRAFT