

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

**HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting**

**Date:** October 22, 2015

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

**In Attendance:**

<b>Committee:</b>	Danny Babin, MPO Chairman (TPCG Council Member) – Present Chandra Bondzie (FHWA, Non-Voting) - Absent Paul Champagne (Mayor Town of Lockport) – Present Michel Claudet (Terrebonne Parish President) – Present Tommy Eschete, MPO Vice Chair (Mayor City of Thibodaux) – Proxy Thad Angelloz Dirk Guidry (TPCG Council Member) – Present Greg Hood (TPCG Council Member) – Present Charlotte Randolph (Lafourche Parish President) – Proxy Terry Arabie Marty Triche (Assumption Parish Police Jury President) – Absent Christopher Morvant (LA DOTD District 02 Administrator) – Present Christa Duplantis-Prather (TPCG Council Member) - Present Ron Animashaun (Mayor of Napoleonville) – Present
<b>Staff:</b>	Leo Marretta, SCPDC Scott Leger, SCPDC Josh Manning, SCPDC Adam Tatar, SCPDC Emma Bergeron, SCPDC
<b>Others in Attendance:</b>	Pat Matherne, LPG Grayling Hadnott, LPG Al Levron, TPCG Chris Pulaski, TPGCG Lyle Leblanc, DOTD Maria Bernard Reid, DOTD Alan Krouse, Buchart-Horn Stephanie Phillips, Buchart-Horn Kara Moree, CB&I Roy Autin, Citizen Henry Richard, Richard Planning

D. Babin called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

Invocation: C. Duplantis-Prather

Pledge of Allegiance: D. Guidry

Roll Call and Submittal of Proxy Letters:

The following proxy letters were submitted:

- Mr. Thad Angelloz will serve as proxy for Mayor Tommy Eschete
- Mr. Terry Arabie will serve as proxy for Ms. Charlotte Randolph

Introductions took place.

**Agenda Item # 1**

***General Public Comment***

D. Babin opened the floor for comments to be received from the general public. Mr. H. Richard spoke to the Committee about his concerns on the bottlenecked traffic along Hwy 24, the main corridor in and out of Houma, as well as the congestion along Hwy 182 coming into Houma. This traffic congestion makes it difficult to bring people and business in to the Parish via Hwy 90. D. Babin stated he would like to see more representation at the MPO meetings from local legislators. There are agenda items discussed that pertain to State Highways. C. Duplantis-Prather agreed that the local legislators need to hear those concerns from boards such as MPO.

**Agenda Item # 2**

***Approval of Minutes from July 23, 2015 Meeting***

G. Hood noted that he was marked absent for the July 23, 2015 meeting when in fact he had attended. E. Bergeron apologized for the oversight and promised to amend said minutes.

***It was motioned by G. Hood to approve the July 23, 2015 Policy Committee meeting minutes as amended. D. Guidry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

**Agenda Item #3**

***Letting Schedules & Current DOTD Projects Update***

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

**Terrebonne Parish**

- LA55 overlay was set to begin in November.
- LA182 from Houma to Coteau Road has been set to begin in November with construction taking place at night.
- The final closures of the Houma Navigational Bridge should take place the week before Thanksgiving.
- Repairs to the Bourg Bridge was scheduled to begin within the next two weeks. While the repair work will be taking place the bridge will be closed to traffic during the week and open on the weekends for two weeks.
- Signal pole should be installed at Westside Blvd the last week in October.

**Lafourche Parish**

- Fourchon Road should be completed within the next month.

**Agenda Item # 4**

***Locally Funded Projects Updates***

**Lafourche Parish:**

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

- Drainage and Road work was being done on E71 and E16<sup>th</sup> Roads
- Bids have been received for the Airport Road project.
- The project on the Talbot Avenue Extension has been completed.
- Eagle Island Road overlay has been completed.

**Terrebonne Parish:**

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

- The contract has been signed and accepted with the construction contractor for the Bayou Gardens extension to Bayou Blue. Construction should be starting soon.
- The Thompson Road extension from LA56 to LA57 is completely funded and the contract has been accepted with Barriere Construction.

- Westside Blvd Bridge on Hwy 24 should be completed before Thanksgiving.
- Traffic lights are planned for the intersection of MLK Blvd and Westside Blvd. The embankment phase to continue Westside Blvd has been completed. Westside Blvd will extend to Hwy 311 where a roundabout has been planned by the Equity Bridge. That portion of the project should go out to bid and let before the end of Mr. Claudet's term in office.
- The widening of Hollywood Road between Hwy 311 and Valhi Blvd has been completed. The extension of Valhi Blvd to Southdown Mandalay has been funded.
- The Donner Bridge in Gibson was closed to completion.

**Agenda Item # 5**

***Transportation Division Report***

***a. Safety Committee Update***

In C. Parker's absence A. Tatar relayed to the Committee that the following day there would be a Child Safety Seat Check held in Grand Isle, LA at the Grand Isle Senior Center. The Region wide DWI Breath Alcohol Testing (BAT) Mobile should be delivered to LSP Troop C on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Local students were being encouraged to participate in the "Capturing Safety through the Lens" contest which emphasizes teen safety while driving. Troop C's LED billboard sign has been installed and now being used to send out safe driving messages.

***b. Transit Committee Update***

A. Tatar relayed to the Committee that the Transit Committee continues to assist transit providers with grant applications. Still working toward bringing the Amtrak rail service back to the Region. Greyhound bus services has returned to Houma. New smaller coach vehicles has been proposed to service the Houma area. Also, a bus stop in Raceland was being considered. He briefly updated the Committee on the Lafourche Transit Service. In the upcoming years, SCPDC may possibly be operating a dial-a-ride, demand/response transit service in Lafourche Parish.

**Agenda Item # 6**

***TIP Amendment***

- a. Civic Center Sidewalks***
- b. LA 24 Sidewalk Rehab***
- c. Prospect Street Sidewalks***

J. Manning reviewed the proposed TIP Amendments. These three sidewalk projects in Terrebonne Parish are already in the TIP. They are in need of requesting engineering funds from DOTD.

***It was motioned by M. Claudet to accept the TIP Amendments; Civic Center Sidewalks, LA24 Sidewalk Rehab, and Prospect Street Sidewalks, D. Guidry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

**Agenda Item # 7**

***Houma-Thibodaux US90 to LA3127 Connector***

A. Krouse of Buchart-Horn updated the Committee on the status of the Houma-Thibodaux North/South Connection to LA3127 project. A draft of the EIS was presented at a public hearing held on September 2<sup>nd</sup> to reach out to the locals for comments on preferred routes. He presented maps displaying each of the four alternative routes under consideration and encouraged the MPO Policy Committee to submit comments in support of a preferred route. On November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 a preferred alternative will be selected. Comments should be emailed to [ht3127eis@bh-ba.com](mailto:ht3127eis@bh-ba.com)

**Agenda Item # 8**

***Other Business***

L. Marretta informed the Committee that Map 21 has a proposed Davis Titus amendment. It was being considered in Washington, DC. It would include a 17% increase in funding to small MPO's. Garret Graves would be voting on this amendment. Please show your support by trying to contact Mr. Graves and request his support.

**Agenda Item # 9**  
***2015 SCPDC/HTMPO Meeting Calendar***

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 28, 2016.

**Agenda Item # 13**  
***Adjournment***

***G. Hood motioned to adjourn the meeting. D. Guidry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

DRAFT