

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

HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting

Date: January 26, 2016

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

In Attendance:

Committee:	Al Marmande (TPCG Council Member) – Present Chandra Bondzie (FHWA, Non-Voting) - Absent Paul Champagne (Mayor Town of Lockport) – Present Gordy Dove (Terrebonne Parish President) – Proxy Al Levron Tommy Eschete, MPO Vice Chair (Mayor City of Thibodaux) – Present Dirk Guidry (TPCG Council Member) – Present Arlanda Williams (TPCG Council Member) – Present Jimmy Cantrelle (Lafourche Parish President) – Present Corey Perilleaux (LPG Council Member) - Absent 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) – Absent
Staff:	Leo Marretta, SCPDC Scott Leger, SCPDC Josh Manning, SCPDC Cassie Parker, SCPDC Adam Tatar, SCPDC Emma Bergeron, SCPDC
Others in Attendance:	Terry Arabie, LPG Doug Cheramie, LPG Jeffrey Leuenberger, LPG Grayling Hadnott, LPG Archie Chaisson, City of Thibodaux Chris Pulaski, TPGCG Pat Gordon, TEDA Lyle Leblanc, DOTD Mitchell Marmande, Delta Coast Joni Tuck, GLPC Henri Boulet, LA 1 Coalition Reggie Dupre, TLCD Roy Autin, Property Owner Henry Richard, Richard Planning

L. Marretta called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

Invocation: A. Williams

Pledge of Allegiance: A. Williams

Roll Call and Submittal of Proxy Letters:

The following proxy letters were submitted:

- Mr. Al Levron will serve as proxy for Mr. Gordy Dove

Introductions took place.

Agenda Item # 1
Election of Officers

L. Marretta explained to those attending that Election of Officers were to be held during the first meeting of every even-numbered year; thus, as it was 2016, Election of Officers were to take place.

It was motioned by A. Williams to nominate D. Guidry as HT-MPO Policy Committee Chairman. A. Levron seconded. A. Levron motioned to closed nominations, A. Williams seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. D. Guidry was elected as HT-MPO Policy Committee Chairman.

It was motioned by A. Williams to nominate T. Eschete as HT-MPO Policy Committee Vice-Chairman. A. Levron seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. T. Eschete was elected as HT-MPO Policy Committee Vice-Chairman.

Agenda Item # 2
General Public Comments

H. Richard inquired if any studies had been proposed on the corridors leading into Houma since the last meeting which he voiced his concerns. Traffic along Hwy 24 to MLK Blvd and along Hwy 182 to Hollywood Road bottlenecks at peak traveling times. He suggested additional turning lanes for said intersections: two turning lanes (one left turn, one right turn) and two straight lanes. L. LeBlanc stated that DOTD was well aware of needed intersection improvements at Hwy 660/Hwy 182 and Hwy 316/Hwy 182. DOTD has been pursuing the right away constraints and seeking cost estimates for those areas. To make the necessary improvements happen was a matter of funding.

T. Arabie stated Lafourche has the same issue along Hwy 1 from Hwy 90 to Hwy 664 and requested a study to be done on that congested area as well. Also, he inquired about turning lanes on Hwy 3235 by the Wal-Mart. L. LeBlanc stated low cost improvements had been made. The next step were the intersection improvements. The Wal-Mart intersection was set to be the first intersection changed along Hwy 3235.

R. Autin was present to inquire about East Main and East Park becoming a one way from Grand Caillou Road to Howard Ave. C. Duplantis-Prather relayed the State was in agreement for making East Main and East Park one lane roadways. L. LeBlanc stated a consensus (a resolution) was needed from the Parish Council before DOTD could pursue it further. C. Duplantis-Prather stated she would see that the topic be placed on the next Terrebonne Parish Council meeting agenda.

Agenda Item #3
Approval of Minutes from October 22, 2015

It was motioned by A. Levron to approve the October 22, 2015 Policy Committee meeting minutes. T. Eschete seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 4

MPO 101

L. Marretta explained that the HT-MPO is the organization responsible for long range transportation planning which also involves the programming of federal transportation funds for the Region. This is done in cooperation with LA DOTD, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration. The MPO is collaboratively the highest elected officials from the Parishes and Municipalities of Terrebonne, Lafourche, and Assumption Parishes.

a. Staff Introductions

L. Marretta introduced the HT-MPO staff and briefly reviewed their duties. First he introduced J. Manning, Transportation Planner II. He handles all the transportation modeling and is the person most knowledgeable on all the MPO processes. Also, he maintains the HT-MPO website. L. Marretta then introduced C. Parker, the Transportation Safety Planner. Her focus is on road safety issues. One of her duties is handling complaints from constituents. She assists with documenting, tracking, and presenting the constituents concerns to the MPO Policy Committee to address. Next, L. Marretta introduced A. Tatar, the new Transportation Transit Planner. His duties are focused on transit and active transportation. S. Leger is the GIS and Data Coordinator. He creates maps and data analysis from census and demographic information.

b. MPO Documents

iii. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The UPWP is updated annually. This is the transportation planning work program for the upcoming year.

iv. Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)

The TIP is a tool for implementing transportation-related projects. This program helps to identify, prioritize, and allocate funding for transportation improvements. It is updated every two years.

v. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

The MTP is a long range plan which identifies and prioritizes necessary improvements for all types of transportation. It is developed through the local MPO and is updated every five years. The most recent MTP was adopted in May 2015.

vi. Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP)

This plan facilitates coordinated efforts by representatives of public, private, non-profit transportation and human service providers, and the public.

vii. Regional Highway Safety Plan (RHSP)

This plan helps to implement the statewide Strategic Highway Safety Plan within the Region. It includes five emphasis areas: Impaired Driving, Occupant Protection, Vulnerable Road Users, Young Drivers, and Infrastructures and Operations.

c. MPO Committees

i. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The TAC reviews plans, programs, projects, studies, and reports and provides the MPO with recommendations concerning them. Participants on the TAC include municipalities, parishes, LA DOTD, the FHA and FTA. This Committee meets quarterly on the second Thursday of the month.

ii. Transit Committee

A. Tatar stated the Transit Committee is a collaborative effort of all the public, private, and nonprofit transit providers in the Region. This Committee assesses transportation needs for individuals with disabilities, older adults, and persons with limited incomes. They also strategize to address gaps in services to help achieve efficiencies in service.

iii. Regional Safety Coalition

C. Parker briefed the Committee on the SCRSC efforts. It is a multidisciplinary partnership which collaborates to implement highway safety projects in the Region. The Coalition collaboratively works creates and implements the South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan which follows the statewide Strategic Highway Safety Plan whose mission is Destination Zero Deaths. This plan is a living document which is ever changing. The Coalition is comprised of the 5E's: education, enforcement, engineering, emergency medical services and everyone.

1. Vulnerable Road Users Subcommittee

The focus of this Subcommittee is reduction of fatalities with bicyclists, motorcyclists, and pedestrians.

2. Infrastructure Subcommittee

The focus of this Subcommittee is to reduce roadway departure fatalities.

i. Bylaws

J. Manning explained bylaws govern the MPO, guiding the makeup of its memberships and committees. All Policy members were given a copy.

ii. Public Participation Plan

This plan provides opportunities for citizens to contribute their ideas and voice out opinions during the preparation of draft plans. Public Participation is vital in the planning process.

Agenda Item # 5

Project Updates

a. Letting Schedules & Current DOTD Project Updates

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

Terrebonne Parish

- Houma Navigational Canal Bridge Rehab has been completed. However, the Dularge overpass was having issues with the span locks.
- Bayou Blue Pontoon Bridge repairs was completed.
- An overlay along Hwy 182 from Houma to Bayou Blue was underway, 5% completed. Patching has been completed.
- In the process of moving the signal poles back for the right turn lane to be built at Hwy 24 and Hwy 56 at Presque Isle.
- The left turn lane on Hwy 311 by the new ball park facility has been set to be let in October.
- The last of the lighting issues in the Houma Tunnel was put on hold until the Dularge overpass issues have been resolved. Three nights of tunnel closures has been planned for when the repair takes place.
- Overlay on Hwy 90 at the Chacahoula/Gibson exit should be completed in February.

Lafourche Parish

- Overlay along Hwy 182 from Bayou Blue to Prospect was to be let soon.
- An overlay along Hwy 182 from Hwy 90 to LA 1 would be let in March.
- 70% completion on the Fourchon Road overlay project.
- LA 1 extension from Golden Meadow to Leeville has been delayed by a month.
- Tiger Drive turn lanes has been scheduled to let in June.
- LA 20 overlay was ahead of schedule and should be completed in September.
- Turn lane along Hwy 3185 should be completed February.
- The Larose Bridge rehabilitation project has begun.

b. Locally Funded Project Updates

Terrebonne Parish:

A. Levron gave the locally funded project updates for Terrebonne Parish.

- The Hollywood Road widening project was still underway, with about 35% completion.
- Bayou Gardens Blvd and Thompson Road extension was under construction.
- Country Drive widening Phase A, bids have been received and contract was being awarded.
- Hollywood Road from Valhi to Bayou Black was in the design phase.
- Westside Blvd Phase 3 from MLK Blvd to Hwy 311 was under construction.
- Falgout Canal pontoon bridge was still under construction and will be replaced.
- Westside Blvd Bridge was recently completed.
- LA 24 & Westside sidewalk projects final plans package had been sent in to DOTD.
- Eastside sidewalks were awaiting the city/state agreement.

Lafourche Parish:

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

- Airport Road's foundation was being redone before proceeding with the blacktop overlay.
- The bulkhead has been completed on the Industrial Road project. Once drainage work was finish, the overlay should begin.
- Drainage was being worked on along E71st and E116th Streets, then an overlay should begin.
- Received approval from the State for the Bayou Blue Sidewalk Project.

J. Manning spoke briefly on the Lafourche Master Transportation Plan. Recently began working on the plan which will envision a 25-year plan for the Lafourche Parish Transportation System. In the upcoming months they plan to meet with Parish Administration, Council, and hold Public Meetings.

City of Thibodaux:

Mayor Eschete briefly stated the City had a few pedestrian projects under construction. He thanked DOTD and Barrier Construction for the hard work and great collaborative effort on the Hwy 20 project.

Agenda Item # 6

Committee Reports

Since an overview of the Committees were given under agenda item four, MPO 101, no further discussion was necessary.

Agenda Item # 7

Old Business

There was no Old Business to discuss.

Agenda Item # 8

New Business

a. Review TAC Membership

L. Marretta reviewed the TAC Membership. He explained that the HT-MPO was in the process of updating the membership information. He requested the Committee members review current list to ensure the correct member information had been received. The Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, the Terrebonne Economic Development Authority, and the Lafourche Parish Grant and Economic Development Administrator, Grayling Hadnott, have expressed interest in becoming members of the HT-MPO TAC and have requested consideration. J. Tuck, the chairwoman of the Lafourche Chamber of Commerce was present and stated the Lafourche Chamber Commerce would also like to become a member of the TAC as well.

It was motioned by C. Duplantis-Prather to include the Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, Terrebonne Economic Development Authority, the Lafourche Parish Grant & Economic Development Administrator, and the Lafourche Chamber of Commerce as members of the HT-MPO TAC. A. Levron seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

b. TIP Amendments

i. 2016 Transit Grants

J. Manning explained the letters which were included in the meeting packets were letters from local transit providers applying for Operating Assistance Grant funds. As part of the grant application process, these letters must be provided to the applying agency, stating their projects would be included within the TIP.

It was motioned by A. Levron to include Assumption Parish COA, Greyhound Lines, Lafourche Arc, TARC, and TPCG Operating Assistance Grants in the TIP. T. Eschete seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ii. H.011516 US90@LA 182. Add construction phase: \$250K, NHPP @ 80/20 in FFY 2018.

It was motioned by J. Cantrelle to amend H.011516 US 90 @ LA 182, add construction phase @ 250K NHPP @ 80/20 in FFY 2018. A. Levron seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Accept Draft 2017 UPWP and call for public hearings on March 10th, 2016 at 10am and April 28th, 2016 at 12pm.

It was motioned by C. Duplantis-Prather to accept Draft 2017 UPWP and call for public hearings on March 10th, 2016 at 10am and April 28th, 2016 at 12pm. J. Cantrelle seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 9

2016 SCPDC/HTMPO Meeting Calendar

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

C. Morvant relayed on February 2nd, 2016 DOTD Road Show will be held at the Regional Planning Commission in New Orleans.

H. Boulet requested a letter of support from the HT-MPO on funding the LA 1 Improvement Project, Phase II. This letter will be included in the application submission to the new National Highway Freight Program which was recently approved in the new Highway Bill.

It was motioned by J. Cantrelle for the HT-MPO to write a letter of support for the funding of LA 1 Improvement Project, Phase II. T. Eschete seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 13

Adjournment

It was motioned by C. Duplantis-Prather to adjourn the meeting. T. Eschete seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT