

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

HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting

Date: April 27, 2017

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

In Attendance:

Committee:	<p>Present: Carlos McCloud, Federal Highway Administration LA Division Christa Duplantis-Prather, TPCG Christopher Morvant, LA DOTD District 02 Dirk Guidry, TPCG Gordy Dove, Terrebonne Parish President – proxy Al Levron Jimmy Cantrelle, Lafourche Parish President – proxy Terry Arabie Luci Sposito, LPG Marty Triche, Assumption Parish Police Jury President – proxy Jeff Naquin Ron Animashaun, Village of Napoleonville Tommy Eschete, City of Thibodaux – proxy Archie Chaisson</p> <p>Absent: Al Marmande, TPCG Arlanda Williams, TPCG Ed Reinhardt, Town of Lockport</p>
Staff:	<p>Arianna Choudhuri, SCPDC Cassie Parker, SCPDC Emma Bergeron, SCPDC Josh Manning, SCPDC Kevin Belanger, SCPDC Martha Cazaubon, SCPDC Pat Gordon, SCPDC</p>
Others in Attendance:	<p>Adam Lefort, LPG Chris Morvant, LADOTD Chris Pulaski, TPCG Chris Rogers, LADOTD David Rome, TPCG Gary Gisclair, LADOTD Jeffrey Leuenberger, LPG Michel Claudet, Citizen Mike Touts, TPCG Tracy Wang, LADOTD</p>

Chairman Guidry 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. Terry Arabie will serve as proxy for Mr. James Cantrelle.
- Mr. Archie Chaisson will serve as proxy for Mr. Tommy Eschete.
- Mr. Al Levron will serve as proxy for Mr. Gordon Dove.

Introductions took place.

Public Hearing: 2018 Unified Planning Work Program

Chairman Guidry called for a Public Hearing on the 2018 Unified Planning Work Program. ***There being no public comment, it was motioned by C. Duplantis-Prather to close the Public Hearing on the 2018 Unified Planning Work Program. J. Naquin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

Public Hearing: 2017 Transportation Improvement Program

Chairman Guidry called for a Public Hearing on the 2017 Transportation Improvement Program. ***There being no public comment, it was motioned by C. Duplantis-Prather to close the Public Hearing on the 2017 Transportation Improvement Program. A. Levron seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

Agenda Item # 1

General Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Agenda Item # 2

Approval of Minutes from January 26th, 2017 Meeting

It was motioned by J. Naquin to approve the January 26th, 2017 Policy Committee meeting minutes. A. Levron seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 3

Project Updates

a. Letting Schedules & Current DOTD Project Updates

C. Rogers updated the Policy Committee on the following projects:

Lafourche Parish

- Overlay project of US 90 from LA 1 to LA 182 was approximately 60% completed.
- West Larose Bridge Rehab was 81% complete.
- LA 654 (Gheens Road) Overlay Project was set to begin.
- The contract has been awarded for the 3 Bridges Project on LA1 in Grand Isle . It has been set to begin after Hurricane Season.
- The widening of shoulders along LA 308 in the St. Charles Community area was slated to begin.

City of Thibodaux

- Overlay Project of Ridgefield Road, North Acadia, and St. Patrick Highway was 73% completed.

Terrebonne Parish

- LA 57 Overlay Project was 60% complete.
- Lafayette Street Overlay was 43% complete.

- Country Drive Improvement Project was 70% complete.
- The Overlay Project for LA 182 in Gibson was set to begin.
- Will soon to begin extending the right turn lane off of LA 24 onto MLK Blvd in front of Rouse's.

C. Duplantis-Prather requested an update on the requested swapping of Prospect Road for the Twin Spans. C. Morvant stated it was still being worked on in Baton Rouge. One of the issues was the property under the bridge, maintaining property rights. He will check with the Baton Rouge office to see where things stood with the proposed road swapping.

M. Claudet stated that vehicles become stacked during weekends and peak weekday hours along the Bayou Gardens Blvd at the LA 24 intersection by Ground Pat'i Restaurant. With the opening of the Bayou Gardens Blvd Extension, he's concerned that the problem will persist and grow. G. Gisclair stated he will check the signalization of the traffic light.

C. Duplantis-Prather requested LADOTD to check into the congestion along West Park Avenue at the intersection of Hollywood Road and West Park Avenue.

T. Arabie requested LADOTD to check the signalization of two lights along LA 1 in Mathews – by the Walmart and by St. Ann Hospital. At 5:00 pm traffic traveling south along LA 1 is very heavily congested during the evening hours. T. Wang stated that Lt. Foreman was planning to observe the PM time to see what adjustments can be made.

L. Sposito relayed that she has received complaints on the Hwy 90/LA 182 intersection by the old fruit stand in Raceland. A significant accident happened in the area recently. C. Morvant stated DOTD will take another look at the intersection. She inquired about safety measures to be made along Hwy 20 from the City of Thibodaux limits to LA 307. C. Parker stated raised highway markers have been approved for the area within the curve. DOTD will continue to study the safety data on the area. C. Morvant said he would look into the possibility of restriping the area.

J. Naquin requested for the synchronization of traffic lights when crossing Main Street to Park Avenue while traveling along St. Charles Road. T. Wang stated she would take a look at the two intersections.

C. Duplantis-Prather inquired about a long ago made request for traffic lights to be placed on each intersection on both ends of Country Estates Drive. C. Parker stated that DOTD plans to study the two intersections once Bayou Gardens Blvd opens.

D. Guidry asked about the traffic lights on Hwy 56 and Hwy 57 for Thompson Road. DOTD was in the process of recounting and studying the existing conditions prior to opening the road. If it doesn't warrant a traffic signal as it is now, DOTD does not feel it will warrant one afterward. Once Thompson Road opens traffic should split up between Woodlawn Ranch Road and Thompson Road. The study done by the parish was done under the wrong assumptions. Once the Road opens, DOTD plans to monitor and take counts to determine whether or not a traffic signal will be warranted. A. Levron suggested if there is a need for the Parish to have additional studies to resolve the Thompson Road traffic light issue the Parish will look into doing so. Discussion ensued.

b. Locally Funded Projects Update

A. Levron updated the Policy Committee on Terrebonne Parish's projects.

- Hollywood Road widening has been completed. Very few punch list items remain.

- Bayou Gardens Blvd. extension was complete and would soon open.
- Overlay Projects of Jeff Drive and Ron Drive have been completed.
- An Engineer was working on preliminary designs for Falgout Canal Road restoration.
- Decisions has been made on how to proceed for repairing and overlaying and Four Point Road will
- Kings Bayou Bridge replacement project was under construction.
- Contracts for the Mayfield #1 Bridge replacement has been signed.
- Finalizing the project design for the Hollywood Road extension from Valhi Blvd to Bayou Black Drive. Mitigation contracts have been submitted. Waiting for final permits to begin bid process.
- West Park Sidewalks final plans have been submitted to DOTD.
- LA24 Sidewalk project final design has been submitted to DOTD.
- Preliminary Plans for Eastside Sidewalks Phase 2 have been submitted to DOTD.
- The City/State Agreement has been signed with DOTD for the both Prospect Blvd Sidewalk and Civic Center Sidewalk Projects. Waiting for DOTD to begin the Engineering Selection.
- Waiting on the City/State Agreement for the Downtown LA 24 Sidewalk Project.

Agenda Item # 4

Committee Reports

a. TAC Committee Report

J. Manning relayed that the TAC met on March 9th. Held a public hearing for both the 2018 UPWP and the 2017 TIP, no comments were received. The TAC recommended the Policy Committee adopt the Draft 2018 UPWP and recommended rather than adopting the 2017 TIP, the 2015 TIP be amended to reflect projects which were included in the 2017 TIP.

b. Safety Coalition Report

C. Parker relayed that a Local Road Safety Workshop was held in February. \$5million a year is allocated annually for Local Road Safety Projects. On March 31st, the Safety Coalition hosted a Child Passenger Safety Technician Course; whereas 17 techs were certified. LTAP will be holding Local Public Agencies (LPA) Core Qualification Courses in Baton Rouge on the 7th, 8th, and 15th of May.

c. Transit Committee Report

M. Cazaubon reported J. Ainsworth from DOTD attended the Regional Transit Committee meeting held on March 21st. J. Ainsworth gave an update on transit grant programs and issues regarding the ordering of new vehicles. SCPDC will continue to work on updating the Regional Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan once the new state plan has been finalized. The next meeting has been scheduled to for Wednesday, May 31st.

d. Air Quality Advance Coalition Report

A. Choudhuri relayed that EPA has slowed down a bit on their Air Quality and Water Quality initiatives. EPA hosted a national level conference call to discuss whether or not to repeal the Air Quality Standards Act.

e. Amtrak Committee Report

P. Gordon stated he had attended the Southern Rail commission Meeting on March 3rd. Governor Edwards was in attendance to discuss his initiatives to continue the Sunset Limited line to Orlando, FL. Amtrak had a signed letter of commitment to extend services to Orlando, FL. Greyhound also had signed letter of commitment to the run parallel services around the rail hubs. The Texas Coalition was also in attendance.

They would like the services extended Westward on a daily basis instead of once every three days. On April 8th & 9th UNO Transportation Planning students presented to P. Gordon and J. Manning the results of their Feasibility Study. The students recommended that more of a destination be created at the Schriever stop to encourage more people to visit the area. He promised a more detail report for the July Policy Meeting.

Agenda Item # 5

FY 2017-2018 Unified Planning Work Program

a. Adoption of Document

J. Manning stated the TAC has recommended the adoption of the FY18 UPWP. He reviewed the amendments with the Committee.

It was motioned by A. Levron, seconded by C. Duplantis-Prather to adopt the FY 2017-2018 Unified Planning Work Program. There being no objections, motion carried.

Agenda Item # 6

2015 Transportation Improvement Program

a. Amend Document to Include "2017" TIP Projects

J. Manning relayed that the MPO was informed by DOTD not to create a 2017 TIP instead to amend the 2015 TIP to reflect the new projects which were included in the draft 2017 TIP which the MPO had been working on. J. Manning reviewed the amendments with the Committee.

It was motioned by J. Naquin, seconded by A. Chaisson to Amend the 2015 TIP to include the 2017 TIP Projects. There being no objections, motion carried.

Agenda Item # 7

Civic Center Roundabout: Authorization to Procure Consultant

J. Manning informed the Committee that there were some special computer software that was needed in order to conduct the Stage 0 Study for the Civic Center Roundabout Project. SCPDC does not own such software which is quite costly. In order to proceed with the Civic Center Roundabout Project procurement of a consultant was needed.

It was motioned by A. Levron, seconded by C. Duplantis-Prather to authorize procurement of a consultant for the Civic Center Roundabout Project. There being no objections, motion carried.

Agenda Item # 8

Adjournment

The next meeting date is Thursday, July 27, 2017 at 12:00pm.

It was motioned by A. Chaisson to adjourn the meeting, unanimously seconded. There being no objections, motion carried.