

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

**HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting**

**Date:** July 27, 2017

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

**In Attendance:**

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Committee:</b>            | <p><b>Present:</b><br/>Jimmy Cantrelle, Lafourche Parish President – proxy Jeffrey Leuenberger<br/>Luci Sposito, LPG<br/>Mayor Tommy Eschete, City of Thibodaux– proxy Thad Angelloz<br/>Gordy Dove, Terrebonne Parish President – proxy Al Levron<br/>Christa Duplantis-Prather, TPCG<br/>Dirk Guidry, TPCG<br/>Al Marmande, TPCG<br/>Christopher Morvant, LA DOTD District 02<br/>Carlos McCloud, Federal Highway Administration LA Division</p> <p><b>Absent:</b><br/>Marty Triche, Assumption Parish Police Jury President<br/>Mayor Ron Animashaun, Village of Napoleonville<br/>Mayor Ed Reinhardt, Town of Lockport<br/>Arlanda Williams, TPCG</p> |
| <b>Staff:</b>                | <p>Josh Manning, SCPDC<br/>Cassie Parker, SCPDC<br/>Emma Bergeron, SCPDC</p>  |
| <b>Others in Attendance:</b> | <p>Pat Matherne, LPG<br/>Geoffrey Large, TPCG<br/>Chris Pulaski, TPCG<br/>Beryl Amedee, LA House of Representatives<br/>Henry Richard, Business Developer</p>   |

Chairman Guidry called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

Invocation: C. Duplantis-Prather

Pledge of Allegiance: L. Sposito

Roll Call and Submittal of Proxy Letters:

The following proxy letters were submitted:

- Mr. Jeffrey Leuenberger will serve as proxy for Mr. James Cantrelle.
- Mr. Thad Angelloz will serve as proxy for Mr. Tommy Eschete.
- Mr. Al Levron will serve as proxy for Mr. Gordon Dove.

Introductions took place.

### **Agenda Item # 1**

#### ***General Public Comment***

B. Amedee stated she had put in a request from Constituents from Gray, LA to LADOTD for a No Parking Zone to be established along West Park Avenue (Hwy 24 North) approaching Rhett Street. Residents are concerned that when the neighboring church holds large events church goers tend to park along the highway; thus creating a blind spot for the residents exiting Rhett Street. She has requested a status update on her request. C. Morvant stated he would reach out to Ms. T. Wang to find out the status on the No Parking Zone request.

### **Agenda Item # 2**

#### ***Approval of Minutes from April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Meeting***

***It was motioned by C. Duplantis-Prather to approve the April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Policy Committee meeting minutes. A. Marmande 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:

##### **Terrebonne Parish**

- LA57 (Bayou Sale Rd) Overlay Project asphalt operations were complete. Contractors were in the process of installing rumble strips, striping to follow before completion.
- Lafayette Street Overlay Change Order was approved to add the Parish sewer work.
- Contract has been awarded for the US 90 Drainage Canal #2 Erosion Repair Project between Hwy 24 and Hwy 311.
- Overlay of Hwy 182 in Gibson area from Bayou Black to Assumption Parish boundaries has been awarded.
- Hwy 660 Overlay Project from LA182 to LA316 goes to bid August 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Right turn lane off of LA24 onto MLK Blvd in front of Rouse's goes to bid November 8<sup>th</sup>.

##### **Lafourche Parish**

- Overlay project of US90 from LA1-LA182 was complete except for striping.
- Several more bridge closures were being planned for the West Larose Bridge Rehab project.
- LA654 (Gheens Road) Overlay Project contract was awarded and executed, work should begin soon.
- The contracts have been awarded but not executed for the widening of shoulders along LA308 in the St. Charles Community.

##### **City of Thibodaux**

- Contractor was currently working on punch list for the Overlay Projects of Ridgefield Road, North Acadia, and St. Patrick Highway.

C. Morvant gave an update on the concerns addressed at the April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 HT-MPO Policy Committee.

- Hwy 24 & Hollywood Road (Park Avenue & Main Street) intersection: adjusted timing of signals, added a Left and Thru sign for travelers to utilize two lanes when going thru the intersection.
- T. Wang was currently working on a Hwy 24 couplet to determine if it is a viable project. If so, a public meeting will need to be held.
- T. Wang was also working on getting reflectors for areas along Hwy 20.
- LADOTD was studying the Thompson Road Traffic Signal Analysis and evaluating the intersection.

L. Sposito inquired about the Choctaw Road striping and if there was any of having the Let Date moved up. C. Morvant stated it was a Parish Project and suggested for L. Sposito to speak to the Program Manager. She also asked about the safety measures being taken into consideration from the City of Thibodaux limits to Hwy 307. C. Morvant stated T. Wang was working on having reflectors placed along that stretch of Hwy. L. Sposito also expressed concern for the overgrowth of vegetation along the small ridge which runs along the 80 Arpent Canal when exiting the city limits traveling toward the Chackbay area. The overgrowth creates a visibility safety concern near the bridge on Hwy 20 that crosses over the canal. T. Angeloz stated the City has surveyed the area but just as LADOTD is not allowed to trim overgrowth on private property neither can the City. LADOTD does maintain the right-of-way portion of the property. L. Sposito brought to the LADOTD there were a few city signs which had the name of Thibodaux misspelled – Thibodeaux.

***b. Locally Funded Projects Update***

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

- Initially Thompson Road was complete; however, there were a few remaining issues: signalization and the location of the stop line at Hwy 56.
- Phase A of the Country Drive widening project was substantially complete. Drainage has been placed and the widening of the road would soon begin.
- Jeff Drive overlay has been completed.
- Waiting on the selection of engineer for the Civic Center Roundabout.
- Recently approved a Cooperative Agreement with the Levee District for +4 elevation of the Falgout Canal Road.
- Kings Bridge completed.
- Mayfield 1 Bridge has been awarded.
- Recently awarded the contract for the Hollywood Road extension from Valhi Blvd to Bayou Black project to LA Contractors.
- Have several sidewalk projects in various steps of approval.
- Hollywood Road was now complete except for litigation.

T. Angeloz updated the Policy Committee on the City of Thibodaux projects.

- Overlay projects have been completed.
- Becoming close to completing the final plans for the Acadiana Road Roundabout.

C. Duplantis-Prather inquired on the status of the joint issue on the Twin Span. C. Morvant relayed he received detail from the Bridge Design. They are trying to put together a joint replacement project to fix the issue. She also asked for an update on the proposed Twin Span/Prospect Bridge swap between Parish and State. C. Morvant was unsure if a transfer was possible but a joint usage agreement may be.

**Agenda Item # 4**

***Committee Reports***

***a. TAC Committee Report***

J. Manning relayed that the TAC met on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The HT-MPO TAC minutes were included in the meeting packet. The TAC made a recommendation to the Policy Committee for two amendments to the 2015 TIP.

***b. Safety Coalition Report***

C. Parker relayed that a Regional Coalition meeting was held on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Several guest speakers were present to give updates on Safety Coalition plans, campaigns, grants, and resources available. Safety Grant application deadline is March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

***c. Transit Committee Report***

In M. Cazaubon's absence J. Manning reported the Transit Committee met. They were still waiting on the State's draft of the updated CHTSP before proceeding to work on updating the Regional CHTSP. In November the Annual Transit Conference will be held in Shreveport. She plans to begin scheduling training programs that will address local operator needs; such as, safety and the STARRS reporting system. Good Earth Transit and SCPDC were in the process of investigating potential bus shelter sites in Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes at high volume stops.

***d. Air Quality Advance Coalition Report***

A. Choudhuri was not in attendance. J. Manning relayed that A. Choudhuri had nothing new to report. She was still waiting on guidance from EPA as to whether it will continue under the new administration.

***e. Amtrak Committee Report***

J. Manning stated there were several updates to be given. Within the meeting packet was a news article on Gulf Coast leaders in support of expanding the Sunset Limited route from New Orleans to Orlando. Last spring he and P. Gordon made a presentation to the UNOTI students, in turn the students made the Schriever station the focus point of their class project. The students made presentations to J. Manning and P. Gordon at the conclusion of their project. The UNOTI student presentations were included within the meeting packet. The students recommended focusing on making improvements to the station and turning Schriever into a place of destination. It has been proposed for a Stage 0 and Feasibility Study be conducted for a Multimodal Transportation Center at the Station. \$50,000 feasibility study, with 80% of the funds stemming from the MPO Urban System funds. NO local match has been located; however, it will be pursued once the scope and study has been approved by the Policy Committee.

**Agenda Item # 5**

***Stage 0 Updates***

J. Manning updated the Committee on the Stage 0's which were approved and submitted into the TIP at the last Policy Committee meeting held.

- Chackbay & CutOff Sidewalks Stage 0's has been approved by LADOTD.
- Larose Multi-Use Path has been approved by LADOTD.
- Lockport Community Center safety improvements and pedestrian connections has been completed and submitted to LADOTD.
- Mathews-Lockport Bicycle Lanes, Raceland Sidewalks, and Raceland-Mathews Bicycle Lanes funding will be utilized to continue the phases of the Central Lafourche Multi-Use Trail which was already included in the TIP.
- Napoleonville Sidewalks has been completed and submitted to LADOTD.
- Have an initial draft of the Bayou Blue Sidewalks (Terrebonne side) Stage 0. Some right-of-way and utility issues have been encountered on both sides of the Hwy 316. LADOTD has suggested for more preliminary engineering be done to better determine which side the roadway to place the sidewalk.
- Valhi Blvd Multi-Use Path has been completed and submitted to LADOTD.
- Audubon Ave and Canal Blvd overlay has been completed and submitted to LADOTD.
- Canal Street Bridge replacement has been completed and submitted to LADOTD.

**Agenda Item # 6**

***Proposed 2015 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments***

***a. City of Thibodaux – Downtown Sidewalk Rehabilitation.***

J. Manning stated funding was available within the TIP for the City of Thibodaux's Downtown Sidewalk Rehabilitation. The TAC has voted to recommend inclusion of the project at the June TAC meeting. The TIP application was included within the packet. T. Angeloz relayed the City of Thibodaux's downtown area sidewalks were in need of repair. The City plans to strategically repair the sidewalks so as not to disrupt local business.

***It was motioned by T. Angelloz, seconded by C. Duplantis-Prather to amend the 2015 TIP to reflect the inclusion of the City of Thibodaux Downtown Sidewalk Rehabilitation project. There being no objections, motion carried.***

***b. Multimodal Transportation Center Feasibility Study & Stage 0***

As per earlier discussion under agenda item 4e, a Stage 0 and Feasibility Study for a Multimodal Transportation Center at the Schriever Station. A \$50,000 feasibility study, with 80% of the funds from the MPO Urban Systems funding. No local match has been located; however, it will be pursued once the scope and study has been approved by the Policy Committee. A vote today would give the HT-MPO authorization to place the project within the TIP once a local match has been secured.

***It was motioned by J. Naquin, seconded by C. Duplantis-Prather, seconded by A. Marmande to amend the 2015 TIP to reflect the inclusion of the Multimodal Transportation Center Feasibility Study and Stage 0 project. There being no objections, motion carried.***

**Agenda Item # 7**

***Adjournment***

The next meeting date is Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 12:00pm.

***It was motioned by A. Levron to adjourn the meeting, seconded by L. Sposito. There being no objections, motion carried.***