

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

HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting

Date: January 23, 2020

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

In Attendance:

Committee:	<p>Present: Archie Chaisson Lafourche Parish President – proxy Terry Arabie Christopher Morvant, LA DOTD District 02 Danny Babin, TPCG Council Darrin Guidry, TPCG Dirk Guidry, TPCG Gordon Dove, Terrebonne Parish President – proxy Chris Pulaski Jeff Naquin, Assumption Parish Police Jury President John Amedee, TPCG Council Laura Phillips, Federal Highway Administration LA Division Michael Gros, LPG Council Mayor Ron Animashaun, Village of Napoleonville Mayor Tommy Eschete, City of Thibodaux</p> <p>Absent: <i>NONE</i></p>
Staff:	<p>Pat Gordon, SCPDC Martha Cazaubon, SCPDC Josh Manning, SCPDC Cassie Parker, SCPDC Emma Bergeron, SCPDC</p>
Others in Attendance:	<p>Sarah Arceneaux, City of Thibodaux Jacques Thibodaux, City of Thibodaux Jeffrey Leuenberger, LPG Pat Matherne, LPG Gary Gisclair, LADOTD Tracey Wang, LADOTD Bill Ellzey, Private Citizen</p>

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

Invocation: J. Amedee

Pledge of Allegiance: T. Eschete

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. Chris Pulaski will serve as proxy for Mr. Gordon Dove.

Introductions took place.

Agenda Item #1

Election of Officers

Chairman Guidry opened the floor to receive nominations for Chairman of the HT-MPO Policy Committee. ***D. Guidry was nominated to remain as Chairman for the HT-MPO Policy Committee by D. Babin, seconded by T. Eschete. There being no other nominations or objections, motion carried.***

The floor was then opened to receive nominations for Vice-Chairman of the HT-MPO Policy Committee. ***T. Arabie nominated J. Naquin as Vice-Chairman for the HT-MPO Policy Committee, seconded by J. Amedee. There being no other nominations or objections, motion carried.***

Introductions took place.

Agenda Item #2

General Public Comment

No comments from the General Public were received.

Agenda Item #3

Adoption of Meeting Minutes from the October 24th, 2019 Meeting

It was motioned by D. Babin to approve the October 24th, 2019 Policy Committee meeting minutes. T. Arabie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #4

MPO Overview

- a. Distribution of Bylaws***
- b. Presentation of Staff***

J. Manning gave a brief overview on the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Organization. He explained how it was the HT-MPO's responsibility to develop long and short range transportation plans in order for the region to be eligible for any federal grant funds for anything transportation related. Within the meeting packet was a copy of the ByLaws for the HT-MPO Policy Committee for members to review. He reviewed the Public Participation Plan, which involves how the HT-MPO engages the public's participation as well as other important MPO documents: MTP, TIP, UPWP. He briefed upon the other Committee's which HT-MPO partners with: Safety Coalition, Transportation Demand Management, Transit Committee, and TAC. Also, reviewed FHWA eligible projects, FTA projects, and the many other services the HT-MPO provides to the Region.

Agenda Item #5

Project Updates

a. Current DOTD Project Updates

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

Lafourche Parish

- LA1 Leeville Bridge Phase 2E is near completion, expected completion in February
- LA1 overlay from the Gheens Bridge to the Valentine Bridge is complete.
- LA182 overlay from LA308 to US90 will begin February 2nd.
- LA3235 Safety Improvements at LA3162, 3161, and 657 is currently under construction.
- LA1 at Satsuma Drive in Larose is set to begin February 10th.
- LA648 at Audubon Patching Project will begin in March.

- US 90 overlay from the barrier wall to the Des Allemands bridge goes to bid on March 11th.

Terrebonne Parish

- LA182 Right Turn Lanes at LA660 & LA316 is complete.
- LA57 overlay from Thompson Road to Cedar Grove Road is complete.
- The Carroll Street Bridge in Gibson is under construction. Contractor is on schedule, estimate completion March 2020.
- LA3040 (MLK Blvd) Patching Project will begin February 10th.
- LA182 Roundabout at Hollywood Road project is in the assembly period.
- The LA24 Company Canal Bridge Project, DOTD is currently in the selection process for a Consulting Firm. Construction is expected to begin in March.
- The Houma Navigation and LaCarpe Bridge Structural Repair Project is in the assembly period.
- LA311 left turning lane at Ellendale goes to bid on February 12th.
- LA24 Overlay from Ducrois Road in Schriever to St. Charles Street in Houma goes to bid March 11th.
- Hansen Canal Bridge Replacement goes to bid March 11th.

J. Amedee inquired about when the signal lights at the intersection of Thompson Road and Hwy 57 be turned on. It was relayed that DOTD was currently waiting for Entergy to install service.

D. Guidry requested a status update on the Local Bridge Replacement Project at Hollywood Road and Southdown Mandalay. He stated the engineers relayed they were waiting on something from the MPO before being able to proceed forward. J. Manning stated he believed the project model was currently being updated, once completed the updated model will then be placed into the MTP as opposed to utilizing the old traffic study numbers. He assured D. Guidry that he would follow up to ensure there was no hold up on the HT-MPO behalf.

b. Locally Funded Projects Update

C. Pulaski provided an update on Local Projects within Terrebonne Parish

Terrebonne Parish

- Polk Street Bridge Replacement is under construction.
- East Side Sidewalks Phase 2 verification plans have been submitted to LADOTD.
- Civic Center Sidewalks final plans have been submitted.
- LA24 Sidewalks Rehab preliminary plans have been submitted to LADOTD.
- Civic Center Roundabout is currently in Stage 0.
- The Williams Multi-Use Path is in the environmental approval process.
- Industrial Blvd Bridge Replacement is in design.
- Hollywood Extension Bridge is in preliminary design.
- The Valhi Multi-Use Path Phase 2 is in Feasibility Study.

Agenda Item #6

Committee Reports

a. Safety Coalition

C. Parker reviewed the Safety Coalition's Action Plans and their goal achievement percentages. She relayed the projects which the Safety Coalition plans to focus on during 2020. The Safety Coalition is currently hosting a Traffic Safety Meme/Video Contest for local High School students throughout the Region. Judging will be held on February 14th. She provided a brief update on the MLK Blvd Feasibility Study. She relayed the Consultant was currently analyzing the data. Also, staff was currently analyzing data collected in regards to the Ped/Bike Plan. Staff plans to meet with Parish Officials to review data gathered.

b. Travel Demand Management Committee

M. Cazaubon explained the TDM Grant Program can only be used to fund Ride Sharing Programs and not system improvements. She stated due to the lack of interested the TDM Committee meetings have been combined with the Transit Committee meetings. A small portion of the TDM grant funding can be used to help setup a pilot van pool program and then use it as a marketing tool. Vanpools can be set up by groups of employees, an employer. There is an interest in possibly pursuing a pilot with workforce development in Terrebonne Parish. Future meetings to discuss this further with interested parties are planned to be held.

c. Transit Committee

A Transit Committee meeting is set to be held on January 28th. Agenda items for discussion are a Mystery Rider Program and a presentation on how Workforce Development funds can be used to support individual's transportation support. Also, plan to continue discussing driver staffing issues which agencies have been experiencing.

d. Technical Advisory Committee

The minutes from the TAC meeting held in December was included in the meeting packet for Committee members to read at their convenience.

i. Amtrak Sub-Committee

P. Gordon relayed that the Amtrak Sub-Committee has not met recently. However, they are currently working on ordering way-finding signage for Lafourche and Terrebonne. The goal is to have the Schriever Station upgrades ready for when the Sunset Limited expands their daily services.

Agenda Item #7

2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

The HT-MPO is currently in the process of updating the Long-Range, 25-year transportation plan. This plan is important as it is needed to receive federal funding for transportation projects in the region. It is due in May 2020. The goal is to have it completed by the April meeting date for the next HT-MPO Policy Committee meeting. Currently, the consulting firm is updating the travel demand model that will be used to evaluate projects. Also, staff has been working on public outreach and are updating all of the elements. A new section will be added to address resiliency.

Agenda Item #8

Safety Program Performance Measures

J. Manning explained one of the MPO's responsibilities is to adopt performance target in relation to federally mandated goals. Most measures are set for multiple years, but highway safety is reviewed every year. Within the meeting packet was the state's measures for the next year, which is a 1% reduction across all areas. In years past, the HT-MPO accepted and affirmed the state's measures. He noted that there are no penalties if goal is not achieved.

It was motioned by C. Pulaski to accept the State's Safety Program Performance Measures, seconded by R. Animashaun. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #9

Transportation Improvement Program

a. Transit Amendments – Greyhound Request

J. Manning relayed Greyhound had sent HT-MPO a letter regarding their grant application for DOTD funds to provide intercity bus transportation. The letter was received after the TAC had met. However, Greyhound's deadline is February 1st. Said letter was included within the meeting packet for Policy Committee to review. This program has been included in the TIP and CHSTP in the past. Greyhound's grant application has not arrive, funding amount is still unknown to include in the TIP. It was recommended to send a letter of support; however, not amend the TIP until the proper procedures with the TAC reviewing first and making a recommendation has been followed.

It was motioned by T. Eschete, M. Gros seconded to send Greyhound letter in support of their grant application and not amend the TIP until the proper protocol has been followed. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #10

LA 1 Coalition/LA DOTD INFRA Grant Application

H. Boulet reached out to the HT-MPO. The LA 1 Coalition is currently collaborating with DOTD to draft an INFRA Grant application for the completion of LA 1. They have requested a letter of support from the HT-MPO. The TAC has voted to recommend the drafting of said letter.

It was motioned by T. Arabie, D. Babin seconded for the HT-MPO to write a letter in support of the LA 1 Coalition's INFRA Grant Application. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #11

MPO Bylaw Amendment

J. Manning explained internal discussions have been taking place in regards to the HT-MPO not having a documented process to determine how projects are selected for the TIP and MPO funding. It has been the HT-MPO's standard procedure to not accept a project without an application of some support and a resolution of support from the local government indicating a willingness to pay a local match. Also, the HT-MPO does not have a written procedure for removing a project from the TIP. Because there is no written documentation outlining these procedures it has been discussed if this is something the HT-MPO Policy Committee would like to formalize.

It was motioned by D. Babin, C. Pulaski seconded for the HT-MPO to draft Amendments to the HT-MPO Policy Committee Bylaws establishing a documented process to determine how projects are selected and remove from the TIP and MPO funding. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #12

Adjournment

The next meeting date is Thursday, April 23rd, 2020 at 12:00pm.

It was motioned by D. Babin to adjourn the meeting, seconded by C. Pulaski. There being no objections, motion carried.

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