

Houma – Thibodaux
Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO)

South Central Planning and Development Commission Office
5058 West Main Street, Gray, LA 70359
985-851-2900

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

HTMPO Technical Advisory Committee Meeting **Date:** December 13, 2012

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

In Attendance

Committee:	Director of Planning and Zoning, TPCG – Patrick Gordon -- Chris Pulaski, Proxy Director of Public Works, TPCG – Greg Bush, Present Engineering Division, TPCG – Represented by Joan Schexnayder, Present Operations Manager, Roads and Bridges Division, TPCG – Perry Blanchard, Absent Public Transit Manager, TPCG – Wendell Voisin, Present Public Works Director, Lafourche Parish – Represented by Terry Arabie, Absent Planning Department, Lafourche Parish – Pat Matherne, Absent Parish Manager/Public Works Director, Assumption Parish – Represented by Erin Watson, Absent Public Works Director, City of Thibodaux – Miguel Maggio – Errol Price, Proxy Grants Director, City of Thibodaux – Luci Sposito, Absent Mayor, Town of Lockport – Paul Champagne, Absent Office of Planning and Programming, LA DOTD – Dan Broussard, Absent District 02 Traffic Engineer, LA DOTD – Dennis Hebert, Absent District 02 Maintenance Engineer, LA DOTD – Lyle Leblanc, Present Public Transportation Administrator, LA DOTD – Donna Lavigne, Absent Federal Highway Administration – Brandon Buckner, Absent
Staff:	Leo Marretta, SCPDC Scott Leger, SCPDC Josh Manning, SCPDC Rudynah Capone, SCPDC Cassie Parker, SCPDC
Others in Attendance:	Dan Broussard, DOTD Dennis Hymel Jr, T. Baker Smith Emile Larson, TMC Traffic Management Christopher DOTD, TMC Traffic Management Duffy Duplantis, Jr., TPCG Kermit Kraemer, SAIC Danny Babin, TPCG

Agenda Item # 1

Roll Call and Introductions

Introductions took place at approximately 10:00 AM

Agenda Item # 2

Adoption of TAC Meeting Minutes from September 13, 2012

J. Schexnayder motions to approve the September 13, 2012 meeting minutes, G. Bush seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 3

LA DOTD Project Update

L. Leblanc gave LA DOTD's project updates

- The overlay on Highway 90 (the portion of road between LA 316 Highway 182) was started; however, due to cane season, the project was postponed.
- DOTD will be leveling out and overlaying the LA 1 Service Road.
- An overlay will be conducted in the Spring 2013 on LA 1 from Gibson to Bull Run Road; there will also be leveling taking place at each end of the bridge.
- At this time, an overlay is taking place on the state route side streets in Grand Isle.
- With regards to Prospect Bridge, the problem has been identified as the barrier. He explains that the output shaft on the gear box was too small and began to shear. He informed the Committee that DOTD will open the bridge next Thursday, December 20, 2013.
- After being overlaid, bike paths will be marked along the shoulder on Highway 20.
- The Navigation Bridge is still under construction.

D. Broussard informed the committee that the next update made to the HTMPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) will be a 50/50 cost share.

L. Marretta asked D. Broussard if there are any updates with regards to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). He informed the committee that the DOTD consultants are preparing their early deliverables at this time. He stated that the first series of the advisory council meetings are planned for the first quarter in 2013.

Agenda Item # 4

Other Local Project Updates

Terrebonne

J. Schexnayder gives the project update for Terrebonne Parish

- St. Anne Bridge is under construction.
- Final plans have been submitted for the Country Drive Widening project
- In the process of awarding the clearing and grubbing contracts for the Hollywood Road project
- Thompson Road phase 1 embankment is substantially complete. Road construction cannot take place for another 16 months.
- The Valhi extension to Savanne road is complete.
- The base work for the Bayou Gardens extension will begin in January.
- Contracts are being signed for the Dularge Bridge.
- Going out for bid December 2012 or January 2013 for the turn lane at Denley Road and Industrial Boulevard
- The preliminaries are complete for the Falgout Canal Pontoon Bridge.

A representative from TMC informed the Committee that if there are any foreseen issues that will

take place as a result of construction problems, and the information is relayed to TMC, they can be instrumental with regards to informing the public.

Agenda Item # 5

Terrebonne Comp Plan Update – Transportation Element

C. Pulaski gave an update on Terrebonne Parish's Comprehensive Plan. He informed the committee that Terrebonne Parish's Master Plan update was adopted by the Planning Commission at the end of November 2012. On December 19, 2012, it will be presented to the Council.

The Transportation element of the document has information with regards to the public transit system and ways to improve it, how the transportation plan ties into other elements of the Master Plan, understanding non-motorized modes of transportation and implementing the complete streets policy, pedestrian and bicyclist infrastructure, as well as, policy objectives and strategies. He informed everyone that the full Master Plan can be located on the Terrebonne Parish website (tpcg.org/planning).

Agenda Item # 6

Safety Program Update

R. Capone informed the committee that South Central Planning and Development Commission has a three (3) year contract with the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to develop a regional version of the Statewide Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). She further explained that there is a subcommittee to the South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan (SCRTSP) committee, which is Infrastructure and Operations. The subcommittee recently conducted a Road Safety Assessment (RSA) on the top three (3) high crash roadways in the City of Thibodaux; those roadways included: St. Patrick Street, Acadia Road and Audubon Avenue. She stated that the committee is still awaiting the official report from the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) team. She commented that a roundabout was suggested as a possible solution for the intersection at Acadia Road and Audubon Avenue.

L. Leblanc added that there is a large section of right of way at the intersection at Acadia Road and Audubon Avenue. He also stated that, in the interim, the signal lights can be adjusted to assist with the problem.

R. Capone informed the committee that DOTD, with their Strategic Highway Safety Plan in place, has opened applications available to local agencies to apply for grant funding in order to implement their local safety projects.

L. Leblanc commented on the LA 3235 Safety Project. He informed the committee that the speed limit on this particular corridor is 65 miles per hour. He states that, according to traffic studies, there is no justification to lower the speed limit. Instead of lowering the speed limit, there will be certain safety measures that will be implemented. Those measures include the following: placing turn lanes at certain sections of the corridor, closing some of the crossovers, and modifying the slope approaching the levee on LA 24. R. Capone added that research has shown that most fatalities were concluded alcohol related.

R. Capone closed her Safety Program Update by informing the committee that the 2013 Safe Routes to School application for grant funding will open on January 1, 2013. She encourages everyone to think about an elementary or middle school that can benefit from this program. She also informed

the committee that Napoleonville Middle School is applying for phase 2 of their existing sidewalk.

Agenda Item # 7

Draft UPWP – Vote for PC Recommendation

J. Manning presented the draft version of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to the Technical Advisory Committee in order for them to recommend it to the Policy Committee. He explained that the UPWP represents the budget for the subsequent state fiscal year's planning. He stated that this year, there is a new planning dollar amount because of the 2010 Census. He explains that New Orleans lost population while other areas gained population. Therefore, the budget for this year increased, as it is reflected in the document. He stated that one particular change is shifting some funds from traffic counting to the MTP update process. He explained that traffic counting will continue to be done in support of the MTP. J. Manning informed the committee that there will be a new task, B-5 Ozone Advance Program, added to the MTP task list.

J. Schexnayder informed J. Manning that there are certain sections of the document that the date was not updated. J. Manning stated that he will correct those dates.

L. Leblanc motions to recommend the draft UPWP, with the noted corrections, be presented to the Policy Committee for consideration, G. Bush seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 8

TIP Updates– Acadian Road and Transit Element (Vote Needed)

J. Manning stated that Acadian Road needs to be amended to the new TIP. He explained that this project was in the previous TIP, which expired in October 2012. In order for the funding to remain available so that the project can move forward, the Technical Advisory Committee will have to approve the project be moved.

J. Manning pointed out that another change is within the Transit element of the document. He explained that Good Earth Transit's (GET) program of services, the Council on Aging's (COA), Association of Retarded Citizen's (ARC), as well as, other small transit providers are beginning their new grant application process for the 2013 fiscal year. Therefore, the 2013 fiscal year was updated in order to show what grants the transit providers are applying for.

L. Leblanc motions to recommend that the amendments to the TIP be presented to the Policy Committee for consideration, J. Schexnayder seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 9

MTP Update Process

J. Manning states that this agenda item was discussed earlier during the meeting.

Agenda Item # 10

MAP-21 Performance Measures

J. Manning explained that the new transportation bill, MAP-21, requires that the MPO's track their performance measures. He invited Jason Chapman to the meeting ; however, there was a miscommunication, and he was unable to attend.

Agenda Item # 11

Urban Area Map Update

J. Manning informed the committee that, based on the new Census data, the Census has defined a new urban area. He stated that, for transportation planning purposes, we would like to smooth out the area in order to correct certain issues that arise with regards to corridors being partially urban and partially rural. He explained that he would like the Technical Advisory Committee's input for this process.

Because Lafourche Parish representatives were unable to attend the meeting, it was decided that this issue will be discussed further during future meetings.

Agenda Item # 12

Other Business

There was no other business.

Agenda Item # 13

Next Meeting Date: Thursday March 14, 2013 10:00 AM

Agenda Item # 14

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:20 AM.

DRAFT