

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: June 13, 2013

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

In Attendance

Committee:	Director of Planning and Zoning, TPCG – Patrick Gordon, Present 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, Present Public Transit Manager, TPCG – Wendell Voisin, Absent Public Works Director, Lafourche Parish – Represented by Terry Arabie, Absent Planning Department, Lafourche Parish – Pat Matherne, Present Parish Manager/Public Works Director, Assumption Parish – Represented by Erin Watson, Absent Public Works Director, City of Thibodaux – Miguel Maggio, Absent Grants Director, City of Thibodaux – Luci Sposito, Present Mayor, Town of Lockport – Paul Champagne, Absent Office of Planning and Programming, LA DOTD – Dan Broussard, Proxy Matt Johns District 02 Traffic Engineer, LA DOTD – Dennis Hebert, Absent District 02 Maintenance Engineer, LA DOTD – Lyle Leblanc, Present District 61- Area Engineer, LADOTD – Joey Tureau, Present Public Transportation Administrator, LA DOTD – Donna Lavigne, Absent Federal Highway Administration – Brandon Buckner, Absent
Staff:	Leo Marretta, SCPDC Josh Manning, SCPDC Rudynah Capone, SCPDC
Others in Attendance:	Chris Pulaski, 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 March 14, 2013.

J. Schexnayder motions to approve the March 14, 2013 meeting minutes, P. Blanchard seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 3

LA DOTD Project Update

L. Leblanc gave LA DOTD's project updates

- An overlay is taking place on LA 20, from Gibson to Bull Run Road. He stated that striping should be completed today.
- DOTD has a project for a thin lift overlay on LA 308, going from US 90 interchange to Lockport.
- The Prospect Bridge is completed.
- DOTD is still in the process of relocating utilities on Highway 57 in order to allow the contractors to begin widening Grand Caillou Road.
- He stated that another lane will be added Northbound on Park Avenue to assist with traffic flow.
- He informed the committee that the next large project for Terrebonne Parish is the building of the Company Canal Bridge.

L. Marretta requested that L. Leblanc elaborate on new information regarding I-49 South. L. Leblanc informed the committee that everything from Morgan City to Bayou Lafourche is at interstate standards. He stated that the problem begins from Bayou Lafourche going east and Berwick going west. There are proposals in the works to resolve issues.

M. Johns informed the committee that the state is in the process of updating the Statewide Transportation Plan. He added that there is possible funding available with a 95/5 match instead of an 80/20 match on corridors that are designated as freight corridors. He encouraged those that are interested to attend the meetings and request funding for projects on corridors designated as freight corridors.

Agenda Item # 4

Other Local Project Updates

Terrebonne

J. Schexnayder gave the project update for Terrebonne Parish

- St. Anne Bridge is scheduled to be completed in August 2013.
- Terrebonne Parish is closing on 48, negotiating 23 and has acquired 35 right of ways for the Country Drive Widening project.
- The clearing, grubbing and design for utility relocation for the Hollywood Road project have been completed. The project is scheduled to be let in September 2013.
- The Bayou Gardens extension base is estimated to be completed in November.
- The Dularge Bridge has been installed. The roadwork is beginning and estimated to be complete in September.
- Industrial Boulevard and Denley Road turn lane is under construction.
- The Falgout Canal Pontoon Bridge design phase is 78 percent completed.
- Westside, phase 3, preliminary design is at 25 percent.
- Thompson Road base is settling at this time.

City of Thibodaux

L. Sposito gave the project updates for the City of Thibodaux

- The notice to proceed was issued on May 23, 2013 for the Canal Pedestrian Bridge.

- Once the Canal Pedestrian Bridge is completed, the Tiger Drive Bridge will be replaced.
- The North Canal Project will begin once the Canal Pedestrian Bridge and the Tiger Drive Bridge projects are completed.

Agenda Item # 5

Safety Update

R. Capone informed the committee that the Annual Safety Summit was conducted on May 15, 2013. She commented that the Complete Streets Policy was discussed. She reminded the committee that the South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan (SCRTSP) is a three year living document which was adopted in October 2011. The annual review was done in February 2013. During the review, progress of the plan was evaluated and gaged at 45 percent completed. R. Capone commented that horizontal curve safety and Road Safety Assessment (RSA) initiatives are significant in the plan. In March 2013, St. John the Baptist parish and St. Charles parish RSA's were completed. Assumption Parish, St. James Parish, and Terrebonne Parish RSA's are next to be conducted. She stated that AARP has volunteered to assist the region with street and sidewalk surveys. She asked that those interested, please contact her. R. Capone shared that she and J. Manning attended a Safety Peer Exchange in May 2013. She explained that with the MAP-21 bill, there is a larger amount of safety money, and encouraged everyone to consider safety in all projects. She also informed the committee that the LA 3235 safety project, which is to place rumble strips and signage, is scheduled to be let in October 2013.

Agenda Item # 6

TIP Amendments- MTP Update and Travel Demand Management

J. Manning informed the committee that in previous years, DOTD has hired consultants to update the MTP; however, this update process will be done in-house. He further stated that the total project cost, which is \$500,000.00, will be evenly divided 50/50. Therefore, the HTMPO's share, which will come from STP < 200,000 funds, will total \$250,000.00.

P. Gordon motions to recommend to the Policy Committee that the MTP Update be included in the TIP, G. Bush seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Manning explained that Travel Demand Management involves projects related to transit, ITS, bicycle and pedestrian strategies, and safety strategies in conjunction with bicycle and pedestrian strategies. DOTD informed all MPO's in the state that funding is available to assist with projects that encourage individuals to use modes of travel besides his/her vehicle. As of now, it is a two year cycle for fiscal years 2013-14 and 2014-15. DOTD will provide the MPO with \$100,000.00, which may or may not have a local match. Local match is dependent on what funding source the money is pulled from.

P. Gordon requested that more information be provided with regards to the proposal. J. Manning stated that the four strategies highlighted in the proposal are ITS, bicycle and pedestrian, safety, and transit. P. Gordon asked if this document can be changed. L. Marretta responded that it can be modified as long as it remains in one of the four categories.

P. Gordon motions to recommend to the Policy Committee that the Travel Demand Management be included in the TIP, L. Leblanc seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Manning informed the committee that there is another request to amend the TIP; however, it came

late and was not placed on the agenda. He stated that the construction costs of the Widening of Hollywood Road project has increased significantly. J. Schexnayder informed the committee that the construction costs had not been updated until recently as the parish came closer to construction. She explained that construction costs have increased due to the shuffling of utility relocations and private utility costs have increased. J. Manning stated that the total amount needs to be increased to \$3.5 million, which will then bring the total amount of the project to \$9.5 million.

G. Bush motions to recommend to the Policy Committee to increase the funding for the Hollywood Road Widening project in the TIP in the amount of \$3.5 million, J. Schexnayder seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 7

MTP Update

J. Manning reminded the committee that DOTD will not be hiring a consultant for the MTP update; it will be done in-house with a 50/50 cost share. He informed everyone that the HTMPO and M. Johns with DOTD have been working on a scope. He also stated that a study team, similar to a Steering Committee, will be comprised of three or four Technical Advisory Committee members and three or four Policy Committee members. There are several elements that are being considered. Some tasks include developing goals and objectives for the MTP, updating the existing travel demand model to include a more enhanced safety element, updating the transit element, as well as developing an environmental and freight element.

Agenda Item # 8

Other Business

There was no other business.

Agenda Item # 9

Next Meeting Date: Thursday September 12, 2013 10:00 AM

Agenda Item # 14

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:10 AM.