

Houma – Thibodaux
Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO)

South Central Planning and Development Commission Office
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M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

**HTMPO Technical Advisory Committee & Safety
Coalition Infrastructure & Operations
Subcommittee Meetings**

Date: December 12th, 2019

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

In Attendance:

Committee:	Present: Chris Pulaski, TPCG Chris Rogers, LADOTD David Rome, TPCG Gary Gisclair, LADOTD Joan Schexnayder, TPCG Lionel Lagarde, Sr., LPG Roland Soignet, Jr, City of Thibodaux Terry Arabie, LPG Tracey Wang, LADOTD
Staff:	Cassie Parker, SCPDC Emma Bergeron, SCPDC Josh Manning, SCPDC Pat Gordon, SCPDC
Others in Attendance:	Dontrell Jones, LADOTD Doug Chauvin, TPSO Earl Woods, Jr., Lafourche Parish Resident Karla Courtade, LADOTD Laura Phillips, FHWA Mark Stinson, FHWA Rory Sons, TPCG Tara Lambeth, TPCG Vijay Kunada, Neel-Schaffer

J. Manning called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Agenda Item # 1

Roll Call and Introductions

Introductions took place.

Agenda Item # 2

Adoption of September 12th, 2019 TAC Meeting Minutes and September 12th, 2019 IO Subcommittee Meeting Notes

Agenda Item 2, Adoption of September 12th, 2019 TAC Meeting Minutes and September 12th, 2019 IO Subcommittee Meeting Notes. J. Manning explained they will begin to combine both meetings in order to help save time. ***It was motioned by D. Rome to approve the minutes from the September 12th, 2019 TAC Meeting Minutes and September 12th, 2019 IO Subcommittee Meeting Notes. G. Gisclair seconded. There being no objections, motion carried.***

J. Manning requested to deviate from the agenda in order to brief the Committee on LA1 Coalitions request

for a letter of support from the HT-MPO. **It was motioned by C. Pulsaki to deviate from agenda to discuss LA1 Coalitions request. D. Rome seconded. There being no objections, motion carried.**

J. Manning relayed that the LA 1 Coalition in coordination with LADOTD is applying for an Infra-Grant for the completion of LA Hwy 1, an 8-mile stretch which will extend it to Golden Meadow. This is the only project which LADOTD will be applying for federal grant funding. The LA 1 Coalition has requested letter of support for this project from the HT-MPO. D. Rome requested J. Manning pass forward to HT-MPO TAC members a copy of LA 1 Coalition's request. **It was motioned by D. Rome for the HT-MPO to write a letter in support of LA 1 Coalition seeking Infra-Grant funding. C. Pulaski seconded. There being no objections, motion carried.**

Agenda Item # 3

LA DOTD Project Update

C. Rogers gave the LA DOTD Project Update.

Lafourche Parish

- LA1 Leville Bridge Phase 2E, the contractor is on schedule. Estimated completion is early fall.
- LA1 overlay to LA654 (from Gheens Bridge to the Valentine Bridge) project is complete.
- LA3235 Improvement Project, the contractor is currently installing the catch basins and pipes.
- LA182 Overlay from LA308 to US90 project will begin once grinding season has ended.
- US90 Overlay from the left end of the barrier wall to Des Allemands letting date is February 12, 2020.

Terrebonne Parish

- LA182 Right Turn Lanes at Hwy316 & Hwy660 is almost completed. Contractor is currently working on striping.
- LA57 Overlay from Thompson Road to Cedar Grove Rd. asphalt is now complete and the Contractor is currently working on driveways.
- Carole Street Bridge in Gibson test pile has been driven.
- LA182 Right Turn Lane at Hwy 24 project has been completed.
- LA182 Roundabout at Hollywood Road pre-construction meeting will be held the week of December 16th.
- MLK Blvd Patching Project pre-construction meeting will be held the first week of January.
- LADOTD is in the engineering selection process for the LA24 Company Canal Bridge replacement. Construction expected to begin in early spring.
- Main Street Overlay from Ducrois Road in Schriever to St. Charles Street in Houma letting date is February 12th, 2020.
- LADOTD is entering into an agreement with the Levee District to replace the broken concrete panels along LA55 from the Post Office to Humble Canal. Plans are in design, letting date is expected within the upcoming months.

Agenda Item # 4

Local Project Updates

T. Arabie relayed grant funded sidewalks were currently being installed along Hwy 308 and Hwy 316 in Lafourche Parish.

J. Schexnayder gave an update on Local Projects within Terrebonne Parish.

Terrebonne Parish

- Polk Street Bridge Replacement is under construction.
- Eastside Sidewalks Phase 2, verification plans were sent to DOTD, waiting on approval.
- Finals Plans for the Civic Center Sidewalks has been submitted to DOTD, waiting on funding to

proceed.

- LA 24 Sidewalk Rehab 100% of Preliminary Plans have been submitted to DOTD.
- Civic Center Roundabout is in Stage 0.
- Williams Multi-Use Path is in the environmental approval process.
- Industrial Boulevard Bridge Replacement is in design.
- Hollywood Extension Bridge Replacement is in preliminary design.
- Valhi Multi-Use Path Phase 2 kick-off meeting with the State will be held Monday, December 16th.

T. Lambeth announced that Terrebonne Parish has created a website dedicated to the 2020 Census as well as a Facebook and Instagram pages. The website is www.countdabayou.org. On the website the public can find information in regards to the Parish's Count Steering Committee, subcommittees, and public events.

Agenda Item #5

Amtrak Working Group Update

P. Gordon relayed that Amtrak will be providing way-finding signs to both Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes. The Parish is working on placement of those signs. For review J. Manning will send out a final map depicting the locations. Once agreed upon the signage will be ordered.

Agenda Item # 6

Roundtable Discussion on Resiliency Planning in Transportation

J. Manning introduced L. Phillips of FHWA to the committee. The FHWA is interested in learning what agencies in South Louisiana were doing to combat flooding on local roadways. She explained that as more and more states in other parts of the country are dealing with increasing flooding events, they are looking to South Louisiana who has dealt with this for ideas and guidance. D. Rome stated that Terrebonne Parish is continuing to delve into drainage studies and approach it from more a systemic look. Also, looking at retention expansion in certain areas of the parish. For new construction, D. Rome said the Parish was building their roadways to a standard that can accept more. C. Pulaski used the flooding of Isle de Jean Charles Road as an example of separate parish agencies coming together at the table to resolve an issue that was effecting both sides of the parish boundary lines. He stated cross-communication is a key. J. Manning stated that as the MTP is developed Resiliency will be a topic.

Agenda Item # 7

Houma Downtown Demonstration Day

C. Pulaski stated Houma's Downtown Demonstration Day which had been originally scheduled for mid-October and rescheduled due to inclement weather will be held December 13th – 14th. This Demonstration Day will showcase the Parish's vision of what the downtown corridor could be. C. Pulaski reviewed some of the temporary elements the Parish plans to incorporate. Their hope is to change Main Street from a thoroughfare to a destination street. The most important element of this Demonstration Day is to gather feedback from the public. Once the information has been analyzed they plan to incorporate it into a Master Plan. Volunteers are welcome.

Agenda Item # 8

FHWA Freight Planning Tool

J. Manning relayed within the meeting packet was an informational handout on Volpe Tools. Volpe has developed the Freight and fuel Transportation Optimization Tool. TAC members who are interested in more information on Volpe's innovation are invited to read the handout at their convenience.

Agenda Item # 9

Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

V. Kunada of Neel-Schaffer gave a brief update on the MTP. He stated they are in the process of analyzing all data and hopes to have the initial model to present at the next HT-MPO TAC meeting. J. Manning briefed the TAC members on the public participation process for the MTP. A three tier approach was used in the data collection process: five Public Meetings were held at various locations and time throughout the Region, an online survey, and consultations with local agencies and officials. A total of 22 citizens participated in the five public meetings that were held. 631 citizens participated in the online survey where 20,000 data points and over 1,200 comments were received. He reviewed some of the comments and concerns received.

Agenda Item #10

Transportation Improvement Program

a. Prospect Street Sidewalks

J. Manning inquired about the removal of the Prospect Street Sidewalks Project from the TIP. At the last Policy Committee this discussion was tabled, so it is still in the TIP. It was asked whether Terrebonne Parish's staff/administration would still like this project removed from the TIP. C. Pulaski stated to his knowledge the discussion between administration and council has not yet happen. J. Manning offered the HT-MPO assistance in facilitating those discussions.

At this point, C. Parker began facilitating the meeting.

Agenda Item #11

Safety Coalition Infrastructure/Operations Subcommittee

a. Highway Safety Performance Measures

J. Manning relayed that a request from DOTD had been received for the HT-MPO to either reaffirm the Highway Safety Performance Measures which were adopted last year or to adopt new Performance Measures this year. Last year, the HT-MPO Policy Committee elected to adopt the same Performance Measures as DOTD. Included within the meeting packet was DOTD's letter and chart outlining their Safety Performance Measures. J. Manning briefly reviewed those Highway Safety Performance Measures adopted by the HT-MPO Policy Committee. ***It was motioned by G. Gisclair to recommend the HT-MPO Policy Committee to adopt the same Highway Safety Performance Measures as DOTD. D. Rome seconded. There being no objections, motion carried.***

b. September 12, 2019 IO Subcommittee Meeting Notes – NEED APPROVAL

Adopted under agenda item 2.

c. 2019 IO Action Plan Status

C. Parker stated 97.92% of the I/O Action Plan Goals for this year have been achieved thus far. Within the meeting packet was a copy of the Infrastructure and Operations Safety Plan. C. Parker gave a brief overview of the objectives and output measures.

d. 1.1 Statewide I/O Update

K. Courtade gave a brief update on the Statewide Infrastructure/Operation efforts. She stated the Roadway Departure Plan has been received from FHWA and is now under review. Upon completion of the review and finalization of the plan, DOTD plans to develop a training or implementation of the Roadway Departure Plan on State Routes as well as Local. DOTD will be meeting with the Districts and Coalition Coordinators to address the Plan. K. Courtade stated it would be beneficial for the Implementation of the Roadway Departure Plan to become part

of the Safety Coalition's Regional Plan. She also mentioned that she was currently planning the Safety Road Show.

C. Parker stated Coalitions can request a 2-hour mini Road Safety Assessment (RSA) Workshop. She inquired whether the sub-committee would be interested in hosting an RSA Workshop, they were in agreement. D. Rome suggested setting a goal of conducting 2 RSA's within the Coalition District. C. Parker stated she will add these two items to the 2020 I/O Action Plan.

e. 1.3 Grant Opportunities/Updates

i. Safe Routes to School/Safe Routes to Public Places Program Updates

Within the meeting packet was an informational handout on the Safe Routes to Public Places Program. C. Parker reminded members SCPDC staff is available to offer assistance with the application process.

ii. SCPDC Staff Assistance – Grant Preparation

1. Safe Routes to Public Places & Transportation Alternatives Program Project Proposals DUE

Safe Routes to Public Places Applications are due in April 2020 and proposals for the Transportation Alternatives Program Project are due in October.

f. 4.1 Local Road Safety Program Update

i. Local Road Safety Program Applications

Within the meeting packet was an informational handout on the Local Road Safety Program. This is a data driven program. If DOTD opens up the application process, they will be due in the fall. C. Parker again reminder members SCPDC staff is available to offer assistance with the application process.

ii. NSU Mini Roundabout Highlight

C. Parker provided within the meeting packet, LTAP's Local Road Safety Project Spotlight: Mini-Roundabout at Nicholls State. She stated members can read it at their convenience. Also included was a calendar of events and conferences hosted by LTAP in case members were interested in participating.

g. 4.2 Safety Concern Updates

Members were given a Safety Concerns Update insert. This insert highlighted information on the evaluation of completed and remaining Safety Concerns and the current status of Safety Concerns. She reviewed the chart. Since 2012 (60) sixty safety concerns have been completed with (20) twenty remaining. (11) Eleven safety concerns were received in 2019.

i. LA3040 Feasibility Study

C. Parker provided an update on the LA3040 Feasibility Study. She stated additional data was needed which the consultant is now working on. It is estimated that it will be an additional 3 months before the consultant completes the Feasibility Study.

Mr. E. Woods addressed the Sub-committee in regards to his safety concerns with the intersection at Ridgfield Road and Talbot Avenue in Thibodaux, LA. He stated the intersection is surrounded by sugarcane fields which has been planted and grows pass the point where the stop sign is located; thus creating a blind spot for drivers. In the past 10 years there has been 80+ accidents at said intersection, no fatalities. As of this morning's meeting, the sugarcane is still obstructing the view. He is concerned as it is a heavily traveled road with an abundance of school traffic. C. Parker stated she has forwarded Mr. Woods concern to Mr. Barnes and promised to continue following up on the matter. One suggestion made was the possibility of moving the stop sign up a bit, another was to place flashing lights on the stop sign.

h. 4.3 Improving School Zones Workgroup Update

C. Parker stated this group continues to meet. The Workgroup has achieved their goal and created an Action Plan which was included within the meeting packet for review. This workgroup is tasked with reviewing school zones and studying which safety measures may need to be taken within those zones. The workgroup is currently working on collecting inventory on all the school zones. D. Rome stated that members of the Terrebonne Parish School District Maintenance Department is meeting with the Parish's Road and Bridges Maintenance Department to discuss the maintenance of the flashing light boxes. Also, the Parish gave the School Board (60) sixty "Hands Free" signs.

i. 4.4 Regional Bike-Ped Safety Plan

C. Parker relayed that S. Bruning is currently working on a GIS story map to show survey findings. Staff is also researching funding options, action plans, and future outreach opportunities.

j. 2020 IO Action Planning Discussion – What should we include in next year's tasks?

C. Parker asked if there was something more the Safety Coalition could be doing to save lives? D. Rome complimented the push of safety messages on social media. She asked if members were okay with her updating the Action Plan based on conversations from the last three meetings including regional action steps as discussed. No one objected.

Agenda Item # 12

Next Meeting Date: March 12th, 2020

Adjournment

D. Rome motioned to adjourn the meeting. J. Schexnayder seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT