

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: March 12th, 2020

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

In Attendance:

Committee:	Present: Chris Rogers, LADOTD Dawn Sholmire, LADOTD Dillon Baronne, LPG Jeffrey Leunberger, LPG Sarah Arceneaux, City of Thibodaux Tara Lambeth, TPCG representing C. Pulaski Terry Arabie, LPG Wendell Voisin, TPCG
Staff:	Shannon Edgeron, SCPDC Lesley Long, SCPDC Josh Manning, SCPDC Cassie Parker, SCPDC Emma Bergeron, SCPDC
Others in Attendance:	Vijay Kunada, Neel-Schaffer Nicole Barraco, St. Charles Parish Government

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

Agenda Item # 1

Roll Call and Introductions

J. Manning introduced newly hired planner, S. Edgeron to the committee.

Agenda Item # 2

Adoption of December 12th, 2019 TAC Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item 2, Adoption of December 12th, 2019 TAC Meeting Minutes. ***It was motioned by T. Arabie to approve the minutes from the December 12th, 2019 TAC Meeting Minutes. S. Arceneaux 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 has been completed.
- LA182 Overlay from LA308 to US90 project, the contractor is currently working on patching.
- LA3235 Improvements Project, the contractor is approximately 25% complete.

- LA1 at Satsuma Drive in Larose Cross-Drain Replacement is complete.
- LA648 Patching at Audubon has been completed.

- LA1 to Falgout Lane overlay in Golden Meadow letting date is July 8th.
- US90 Overlay from the east end of the barrier wall to Des Allemands letting date has been moved to April 8th

Terrebonne Parish

- Carole Street Bridge Replacement in Gibson expected completion is April.
- MLK Blvd Patching Project is currently underway.
- LA182 Roundabout at Hollywood Road construction will soon begin.
- Consulting Firm has been selected for the LA24 Company Canal Bridge replacement project. Construction expected to begin in April or May.
- The Houma Navigation Bridge Bayou LaCarpe Bridge repairs are underway.
- LA311 Right Turn Lane at Ellendale Project went to bid. Construction is expected to begin May or June.
- LA24 (Main Street) Overlay from Ducrois Road in Schriever to St. Charles Street in Houma construction to begin summer 2020.
- LA182/Hollywood Rd Bridge Repair construction expected to begin May or June.
- LA55 Concrete Repairs in Montegut letting date is March 26th.
- The Hansen Canal Bridge Project letting date has been moved to May 13th.

T. Arabie stressed safety concerns in regards to the Mayflower Bridge. C. Rogers stated he would mention to the District to send out a small construction crew to redo the approaches.

Agenda Item # 4

Local Project Updates

On C. Pulaski and D. Rome's behalf, T. Lambeth gave an update on Local Projects within Terrebonne Parish.

Terrebonne Parish

- Currently working on the Master Plan following up the Demonstration Day. Preparing smaller demonstration projects for the spring.
- Working on 2020 Census outreach efforts.
- Valhi Multi-Use Path Phase 1 is in Environmental Review.
- Valhi Multi-Use Path Phase 2 feasibility study has been completed.
- 2020 Asphalt Project is out for bid, should begin in April.
- Nelo Street widening has been completed.
- Polk Street Bridge Replacement has been completed.
- Industrial Canal Bridge Replacement will soon go to bid, expected start is May or June 2020.

S. Arceneaux gave an update on Local Projects within the City of Thibodaux.

City of Thibodaux

- 2019 Street Improvement has been completed.
- Lighting Project to convert City lights to LED.
- Working on grants for the North/South Project.

D. Barrone gave an update on Local Projects within Lafourche Parish.

Lafourche Parish

- Street overlay projects in the middle of the parish.
- Replaced 2 pylons on the St. Charles By-pass Bridge.

J. Manning stated kick off meetings were recently held for various MPO projects.

Agenda Item #5

Amtrak Working Group Update

J. Manning locations for way finding signage has been selected. Currently working on submitting application for signage to Amtrak.

Agenda Item # 6

Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

V. Kunada gave a brief update on the MTP. He reviewed the traffic analysis results: population, housing units, employment, etc. There is significant growth expected within Lafourche Parish from 2018-2045. He stated he would forward stats to J. Manning to share with Committee members. He also reviewed roadway demand/capacity issues at a daily level such as; Houma Tunnel, MLK Blvd., and Hwy 182 corridor coming into Houma. He stated the improvements which needed focusing are the peak hour conditions at intersections and making the corridors flow traffic efficiently. They are currently in the process of studying needs analysis, then their next step is to study strategies to address the needs.

J. Manning stated much of the MTP document has been developed. It is expected a special TAC meeting will be held in early to mid-May for the specific purpose of reviewing the MTP and making a recommendation for adoption to the Policy Committee. Once the draft has been completed it will be sent to Committee members for review. He relayed future discussions will need to be held or a sub-committee created to discuss how to handle implementing the North-South Corridor project into the MTP. Now that the draft EIS has been completed, FHWA won't approve/finalize it until local funding has been dedicated to the project.

Agenda Item # 7

2021 Unified Planning Work Program

J. Manning informed the Committee DOTD was in the process of reviewing the 2021 UPWP. He reviewed the changes made. If there are further changes he promised to notify the Committee. ***It was motioned by W. Voisin to recommend adoption by the HT-MPO Policy Committee pending any changes by FHWA or DOTD; J. Leunberger seconded. There being no objections, motion carried.***

Agenda Item # 8

Transportation Improvement Program

a. Greyhound Request

Greyhound has requested support from the HT-MPO for their grant application. If Greyhound is awarded the TIP will need to be amended. This request came the day after the last TAC meeting was held. The Policy Committee elected to go forth with sending a letter of support with the caveat that proper procedures be followed before any actual TIP amendments occur. Greyhound is not a new program and has been included within the TIP and CHSTP in years past. ***It was motioned by W. Voisin to recommend the HT-MPO Policy Committee amend the TIP in the event that Greyhound grant is awarded. S. Arceneaux seconded. There being no objections, motion carried.***

b. H.013402 LA1 & LA308 Ped & Multiuse Path (Lockport)

J. Manning explained Lafourche Parish Government has requested an amendment to the TIP to include right-of-way and utility relocation phases if needed. The project has not yet gone to engineering, it is unknown as to how much right-of-ways will need to be acquired. It has been requested to place estimates within the TIP in case they are needed. ***It was motioned***

by J. Leunberger to amend the TIP in regards to the H.013402 LA1 and LA308 Ped and Multiuse Path Project. D. Barron seconded. There being no objections, motion carried.

Agenda Item # 9

Discussion on ByLaws

The Policy Committee has approved the HT-MPO staff to draft language to amend the ByLaws to include language around the inclusion and deletion of projects within the TIP. The amendment states that the HT-MPO Policy Committee will not include any projects sponsored by local governments without a resolution from that government stating they will agree to the 20% local match and also a project will not be removed from the TIP without a resolution from the local government requesting to do so. A little more clarification in the wording is needed to include an exclusion for transit agencies or DOTD projects. T. Arabia inquired about possibly adding a representative for Lafourche Parish since the loss of representation from the Town of Lockport removing itself as a member of the HT-MPO. It was unanimously decided to table the discussion until clearer verbiage has been written.

Agenda Item #10

MetroQuest Update

J. Manning informed the TAC that SCPDC has decided not to proceed with renewal of the MetroQuest contract.

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

Agenda Item #11

Safety Coalition Infrastructure/Operations Subcommittee

a. Regional 2020 Infrastructure & Operations Action Plan Development

C. Parker gave a brief overview of the Safety Coalition's history, mission, and the Regional Safety Plan which is a data driven plan. She explained the Infrastructure and Operations Action Plan focuses on roadway departure crashes, intersection crashes, and non-motorized users. Within the meeting packet was a draft of the 2020 Infrastructure and Operations Action Plan. C. Parker reviewed the goals and output measures of each Action Step.

b. 1.2 Project Updates/Application Period (SRTPP, LRSP, & TAP)

Safe Routes to Public Places Program applications are accepted annually. The calls for projects are announced in February and applications are due in April. Local Road Safety Program accepts applications year round but evaluate applications quarterly. The Transportation Alternatives Program accepts applications biennial; however, it is not definite that project applications will be taken in the 2020 cycle.

c. 1.3 Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Plan Update

L. Long provided a brief update on the Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Plan. She informed the Committee members that the plan is task driven and two of the thirteen tasks have been completed: Task 1, Project Timeline/Kickoff Meetings and Task 5 Public Outreach efforts. Staff is currently working on the data collection, analyzing and evaluating all points of data collected during the public outreach efforts. These findings will be shared during the consultations with the respective parish's representatives.

d. 1.4 School Zone Workgroup Update

C. Parker explained this collaborative Workgroup was created in 2019 to address School Zone Safety Issues in both Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes. The Workgroup has created an Action Plan and is now in the steps of implementing that Action Plan. They are currently

working on collecting data. An Inventory Collection sheet was sent to throughout Terrebonne and Lafourche Parish schools to inventory which signs are within School Zones, are there caution lights, who is responsible for the caution lights, etc. Once this information has been

collected the Workgroup will analyze the information. Their next meeting will take place on April 1st, 2020.

e. 4.2 Safety Concern Updates

i. LA3040 Feasibility Study

Study is expected to be completed by September 2020. A Public Meeting will be held prior to the deadline.

ii. Chackbay Elementary School Zone

With the recent tragic loss of a crossing guard at the Chackbay Elementary School, LPSO has requested a speed study be conducted on LA20 near the Chackbay Elementary School Zone.

iii. St. Charles Street @ Summerfield

C. Parker relayed a request for an Intersection Study for a traffic signal to be placed at the corner of St. Charles Street at Summerfield was received. The study was completed and showed a traffic signal was not warranted for the intersection.

iv. Pedestrian Concerns – St. Charles Street @ Main Street

Discussion ensued on the possibility of placing a pedestrian light at the pedestrian crossing in front of Terrebonne High School along LA Hwy 24.

It was motioned by T. Arabie, seconded by D. Barrone for the Safety Coalition to draft a letter to LADOTD requesting an analysis for LA 20 near Chackbay Elementary School Zone and Main Street at St. Charles Street and Terrebonne High School. There being no objections motion carried.

Upcoming Conferences: LPESA Spring Conference May 6th-7th in Natchitoches, LA. LPA Qualification Core Training June 23rd-25th in New Orleans, LA.

Agenda Item # 12

Next Meeting Date: June 11th, 2020

Adjournment

S. Arceneaux motioned to adjourn the meeting. T. Arabie seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.