

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 Policy Committee Meeting

Date: May 14, 2009

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

In Attendance

Committee:	Terrebonne Parish President, Michel Claudet – Present City of Thibodaux Mayor, Charles Caillouet – Present Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Peter Lambert – Present Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Johnny Pizzolatto - Present Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Arlanda Williams – Present Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Clayton Voisin – Present LADOTD, Michael Stack – proxy Lyle Leblanc Lafourche Parish President, Charlotte Randolph – proxy Terry Arabie Town of Lockport Mayor, Richard Champagne – Present Assumption Parish President, Marty Triche – proxy Kim Torres FHWA, Jamie Setze – Absent
Staff:	Leo Marretta, SCPDC Joshua Manning, SCPDC Emma Bergeron, SCPDC Scott Leger, SCPDC
Others in Attendance:	Shane Guin – Duplantis Design Group Yousheng Zeng – Providence Dennis Hebert – LA DOTD Glen Graham – ABMD LP Ledet – NSI Emery Chauvin – LA DOTD Peggy Krieg – Lafourche ARC George Stack – Lafourche ARC Joan Schexnayder – TPCG Greg Bush – TPCG Alvin Tillman – Terrebonne Parish Council Mart Black – Providence Perry Blanchard – TPCG Ronnie Shaw Pat Gordon - TPCG

Call to Order

C. Voisin called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

Invocation

A. Williams led the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

C. Caillouet led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

E. Bergeron called roll.

Agenda Item # 1

Approval of Minutes from April 2, 2009 Policy Committee Meeting

It was motioned by A. Williams to approve the minutes from the April 2, 2009 meeting, J. Pizzolatto seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 2

Public Comment

Chairman Voisin asked if there were any public comments.

R. Shaw addressed the committee and asked questions pertaining to the cost estimated in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. First, he wanted to know who prepared the cost estimates, and also if the estimates were adjusted for inflation in the later phases. He also expressed his concern relative to flooding on evacuation routes, particularly LA 24 near LA 316 and UPS.

L. Marretta explained that the MTP's cost estimates were an average estimate prepared by Neel-Schaffer. As projects from the MTP are studied further during the Stage 0, DOTD begins to update the numbers. Furthermore, as the projects are engineered and move into the TIP, the numbers become more solid. The TIP is also required to use a 4% annual increase to account for inflation.

L. Marretta then asked either L. Leblanc or M. Claudet to address the flooding on LA 24. M. Claudet stated that he's looked into the LA 24 flooding, and the area in question has only flooded very rarely in the past, and only for major rain events. Since this is a state route, he explained, he will be pushing the state delegation to address the issue.

L. Marretta then read an email from Ed Hammerli into the record concerning the MTP:

"I see a nominal nod to bicycle paths, but nothing concrete (pun intended). Improvements could include bicycle shoulders as well as pedestrian sidewalks. Thanks, Ed Hammerli"

C. Voisin again asked for public comments. He then acknowledged Terrebonne Parish Councilman Alvin Tillman in attendance and asked others in attendance to introduce themselves.

L. Marretta then brought up the LA 311 scoping meeting. He explained that advocates for bike lanes expressed a desire to have them included in the project.

C. Voisin asked for any more public comments.

There being no public comments, C. Voisin moved to the next item on the agenda. (NO ACTION NECESSARY)

Agenda Item # 3
New Intergovernmental Agreement
HTMPO Staff

L. Marretta explained that a new intergovernmental agreement between the MPO jurisdictions is now needed in order to make the inclusion of Lockport and Assumption Parish official. He asked all committee members to bring the document before the respected parish or city councils to be accepted. After this is complete, then the MPO staff will collect signatures and send the document to the Governor's office for his signature.

C. Voisin asked if any committee members had questions pertaining to this document. Seeing none, he moved to the next item on the agenda. (NO ACTION NECESSARY)

Agenda Item # 4
LADOTD Projects Update
Lyle Leblanc, LADOTD Area Engineer

L. Leblanc explained that the Leeville Bridge will be opened in July and then discussed various improvements on LA 308 in Thibodaux, LA 315, LA 56, and other area overlays. Discussion ensued. No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 5
Review "Interim" MTP Update for Adoption
HTMPO Staff

L. Marretta explained that the MTP is the long-range document forecasting 25 years out. DOTD had let the contract for the update to Neel-Schaffer. The contract with Neel-Schaffer, however, does not allow for them finishing the update until after the federal deadline for the current plan to be updated. This "interim" plan updates the text, costs, and project timelines. He explained that, if this plan is adopted, it will allow federal funds to continue to flow while MPO staff works with Neel-Schaffer to update the model. Marretta then asked L.P. Ledet to explain Neel-Schaffer's status on the project.

Ledet explained that the travel survey was delayed due to Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. The surveys have just been completed and other traffic counts are being done to

calibrate the model. Building permits are also being added, and a “mock assignment” has just been run. The model still needs further refinement of the TAZs, but once complete it will be ready to assign routes and do model runs.

L. Marretta explained that part of this process is switching to new modeling software, and asked J. Manning to explain the “interim” plan.

Manning explained that the text has been updated from TEA-21 to SAFTEA-LU and 2004 dollars were updated to 2009 dollars. He explained that no new projects were added to the old plan, but that completed projects were taken out. Once the new model is completed, new projects can be added.

C. Voisin asked if there were any questions for the staff. Seeing none, he said there could be a vote. He also pointed out that K. Torres could not yet vote as M. Triche's letter had not yet been delivered to the office.

A. Williams motioned to adopt the plan; seconded by P. Lambert. Motion passed.

Agenda Items # 6

HTMPO Website Live Demo of ARRA Project Lists, Backup Project Discussion and Amend TIP to Include Any New Policy Committee Approved Projects HTMPO Staff

L. Marretta said that the TIP was amended at the last Policy Committee meeting to include projects for ARRA funding. The purpose today, he explained, is to add backup projects.

J. Manning opened the MPO's website, HTMPO.org, and presented out the ARRA projects are currently listed on the web. Marretta reiterated that if jurisdictions had not yet turned in their projects on letterhead, they needed to do so. Manning then continued his presentation and pointed out the backup projects submitted.

C. Voisin asked if any member jurisdiction had any changes it wished to make. T. Arabie stated that Lafourche Parish would like to add an extension of the current LA 1 project, and to move Lafourche Parish's submitted turn lanes and Tiger Drive overlay as backup projects. Much discussion ensued concluding with a motion to keep Lafourche's turn lanes and Tiger Drive overlay as ARRA projects in the TIP, and the LA 1 project as a backup.

T. Arabie motioned to accept the backup projects as listed with the inclusion of Lafourche's LA 1 project. Seconded by C. Caillouet. Motion passes.

Agenda Item # 7

Review 2009-2010 UPWP for Adoption HTMPO Staff

L. Marretta explained the UPWP needs to be adopted. He said the numbers from the last year had been updated to reflect the new planning funds, and that the document is needed to receive planning monies from the federal government.

P. Gordon asked how much money the MPO is devoting to traffic services and studies.

Marretta explained that the money is currently lumped together and used on an as-needed basis. He also explained that the MPO staff can easily do traffic counts and turning movement data collection; however, as the staff are not engineers, it is not possible to professionally evaluate that data. At that point, a consultant would need to be brought in.

P. Gordon asked if staff would be willing to undergo some type of training.

L. Marretta said he thought that would be a good idea.

A. Williams pointed out several spots in the UPWP that listed "Houma-Terrebonne MPO" instead of "Houma-Thibodaux MPO."

J. Manning pointed out that Assumption and Lockport had not been added to the document.

A. Williams motioned to adopt the UPWP with the typos corrected. Seconded by P. Lambert. Motion passed.

Agenda Item # 8
Air Quality Standards
Providence Engineering

M. Black and Y. Zeng from Providence Engineering made a presentation on air-quality issues and how they affect the MPO.

No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 9
Other Business

L. Marretta presented an updated version of the by-laws and an old version of the intergovernmental agreement that is currently being updated to include Assumption and Lockport in the MPO. He also presented the latest letting schedule and an MOU concerning ITS Phase III, which will hook all service providers up to the system.

Marretta then announced that the MPO has submitted proposals to Congressman Charlie Melancon's office to include funding for the North-South Corridor and the ITS system in the next transportation bill.

C. Voisin asked if there was any other business. Seeing none, he announced M. Triche's letter allowing K. Torres to proxy had arrived and she may now vote.

No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 10
Next HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting

It was motioned by T. Arabie and seconded by K. Torres for the next meeting date of the Houma-Thibodaux MPO Policy Committee to be held on Aug. 13, 2009 at 12:00 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 11
Adjournment

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by K. Torres seconded by R. Champagne. Motion carried unanimously.

Date: _____

Copies to: MPO Policy Committee, MPO Interested Parties List, file