

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

HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting

Date: August 13, 2009

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

In Attendance

Committee:	Terrebonne Parish President, Michel Claudet – Present City of Thibodaux Mayor, Charles Caillouet – proxy Bonnie Lafont Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Peter Lambert – Present Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Johnny Pizzolatto - Absent Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Arlanda Williams – Proxy Al Levron Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Clayton Voisin – Present LADOTD, Michael Stack – proxy, Lyle Leblanc Lafourche Parish President, Charlotte Randolph – Present Town of Lockport Mayor, Richard Champagne – Present Assumption Parish President, Marty Triche – proxy Erin Watson FHWA, Jamie Setze – Present
Staff:	Leo Marretta, SCPDC Emma Bergeron, SCPDC
Others in Attendance:	Kainen LeBlanc, Duplantis Design Group Ricky Galloway, Duplantis Design Group Mary Lou Davis, TPCG Philip Chauvin, T. Baker Smith Eric Fauchaux, City of Thibodaux Gregory Boudreaux, Deputy Chief Bayou Cain Fire Department Henry Richard, Richard Development Darius Bonton, Buchart Horn Terry Arabie, Lafourche Parish Henri Boulet, LA 1 Coalition Michael Ferdinand, TEDA Patrick Gordon, TPCG Dawn Sholmire, DOTD Dan Broussard, DOTD Clay Breaux, GSE Michael Knobloch, Lockport Alvin Tillman, Terrebonne Parish Council, District 1 Kermit Kraemer L. P. Ledet, NSI J. D. Allen, ATG Dennis Hebert, DOTD

Roll Call

E. Bergeron called roll.

Call to Order

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

Invocation

R. Champagne led the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

P. Lambert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item # 1

Approval of Minutes from May 14, 2009 Policy Committee Meeting

L. Marretta explained that it was brought to his attention that Pat Gordon was not recorded as being present at the last meeting. He explained that this will be changed on the final version of the minutes to be posted to the MPO's website.

It was motioned by A. Levron to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2009 meeting, C. Randolph seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 2

Public Comment

Chairman Voisin asked if there were any public comments.

Henry Richard, a local real estate developer, addressed the committee regarding his proposed development along Citi Place Drive. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Voisin again asked if there were any public comments. Seeing none, moved on to the next agenda item. No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 3

LADOTD Projects Update

Lyle Leblanc, LADOTD Area Engineer

L. Leblanc gave a status report on Prospect Street Bridge, LA 311 turning lanes, LA 308 in Thibodaux, LA 3090, LA 3107, and other area projects. Discussion ensued. No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 4

ARRA Project Update

Each Jurisdictions Staff or Consultants

L. Marretta asked each jurisdiction to give an update on their ARRA funded projects. Assumption Parish reported that the scope of their project on LA 1 has changed from a turn lane to strictly an overlay. Lafourche reported that the plans for their turning lanes have been submitted and they are awaiting comments back from DOTD. Lockport, Terrebonne, and Thibodaux also all reported that plans have been submitted to DOTD, and they are awaiting comments back.

Agenda Item # 5

MTP Progress Report

L. P. Ledet, Neel-Schaffer, Inc. and J. D. Allen, Alliance Transportation Group, Inc.

L. Ledet gave the policy committee an update on the MTP planning process. He reported that visioning meetings were held throughout the region to gather public input. He also presented maps of these findings and explained that a summary of what took place at those meetings, along with the comments generated, would be submitted to the MPO in the form of a Visioning Memo. He requested that all interested review the memo and submit any thoughts or comments back to him. He then explained that calibration of the model is complete, and that Alliance Transportation will begin the forecasting of future demographics.

L. Marretta reported that Josh Manning from the MPO staff is currently in Boston attending TransCAD training directly from Caliper, the company that makes the software. He also reported that he and J. D. Allen from Alliance Transportation would be visiting Lafourche's planning department later that day to begin gathering data for the demographic forecast.

L. Leblanc made a comment about L. Ledet's current projections. He explained that he disagreed with the maps showing the Presque Isle area shrinking. He believes that residents of the lower parts of the Parish are moving there as it is considered high ground.

At this point, C. Randolph explained that she was contacted by a group out of Texas that is interested in building high-speed rail from Texas to New Orleans. She suggested that this might be something the MPO could look into. L. Marretta requested that any information she has on the project be forwarded to him so that he can follow up with it.

No action necessary.

Agenda Items # 6

N-S Hurricane Evacuation Route Project Update

Darius Bonton, Buchart Horn

D. Bonton gave a brief update on the N-S Corridor project. He explained that in June of 2007, DOTD asked Buchart Horn to start a supplemental study to review various alternatives, including any paths traversing LA 1 and LA 308 that would tie in with the Sunshine Bridge. The study resulted in the conclusion that the best alternative is the northern-most route that would tie in to LA 3213 and connect to the Gramercy-Wallace Bridge.

Discussion ensued. No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 7

ITS Phase III Update and Phase IV Funding Situation

DOTD ITS Staff

L. Marretta reviewed information from DOTD relevant to the funding for Phase IV of the Houma ITS project. He reported that he and a delegation from Terrebonne Parish have

a meeting scheduled with DOTD Secretary Anknar to discuss options for the project. No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 8

**Tiger Grants
HTMPO Staff**

L. Marretta explained the background information on TIGER grants and reported that SCPDC will be applying for a grant to fund part of the LA 1 project between Golden Meadow and Port Fourchon. Marretta explained that the SCPDC board has passed a resolution in support of the application, and Henri Boulet from the LA 1 Coalition has requested that the MPO pass one also. He then reviewed a draft resolution for the Policy Committee to pass.

H. Boulet explained that the LA 1 Coalition would write the application, but SCPDC would be the actual applicant through its position as the Regional Planning Commission. He explained that the grant would be very competitive, with more applications than available funds. Discussion ensued.

It was motioned by C. Randolph to pass the drafted resolution, R. Champagne seconded.

Before the vote, A. Levron motioned to amend the resolution from, "NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the *Houma Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization*, does hereby support the funding request by the LA 1 Coalition to the United States Department of Transportation through the Tiger Discretionary Grant Program," to, "NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the *Houma Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization*, does hereby support the funding request by the LA 1 Coalition or their designees to the United States Department of Transportation through the Tiger Discretionary Grant Program." Seconded by C. Randolph.

Both motions carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 9

**Administrative TIP Amendments/Changes
FHWA/FTA**

L. Marretta explained the new requirements on administrative modifications and amendments to the TIP from the FHWA. The MPO is now required to approve funding changes to any DOTD project located in the Urbanized Area that is above certain thresholds. He also presented a list of all amendments and administrative changes made this year. L. Marretta then explained that, because of these new changes, the MPO now will need to vote to approve funding changes to the LA 57 widening project. Discussion ensued.

It was motioned by M. Claudet and seconded by A. Levron to accept the change in the LA 57 widening project and amend the TIP to reflect these changes. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item # 10

Technical Advisory Committee Meetings

HTMPO Staff

L. Marretta discussed the idea of holding more Technical Advisory Committee meetings to hash out the details on projects to be present to the Policy Committee meeting. He proposed at least one meeting each quarter to be held at least a week before each Policy Committee meeting.

No action necessary.

At this time, C. Randolph left the meeting and designated Terry Arabie as her proxy.

Agenda Item # 11

Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan J. D. Allen, Alliance Transportation Group, Inc.

J. Allen explained that the CHSTP was developed by SCPDC several years ago but was never adopted by the Policy Committee. He explained the idea of the plan was to bring all the area transit providers and those agencies that provide funding for providers into one document to ensure there is no duplication of service. He said the last step needed is for the Policy Committee to adopt the document.

It was motioned by T. Arabie and seconded by P. Lambert to adopt the plan.

Before the vote, M. Claudet explained that this was the first time he had seen the plan, as it was developed before he was elected to office. He said he would like more time to be able to review and comment before it was adopted.

T. Arabie pulled the motion to adopt to allow all policy committee members the opportunity to review and comment on the plan.

Agenda Item # 12

Roundabouts Discussion

L. Marretta reviewed a brochure on roundabouts and explained they are reportedly safer and more efficient than traditional intersections. He also reported that they are able to be 100% federally funded if they are linked to some sort of safety issue. He suggested that this is a topic that the TAC could look at and make recommendations of specific intersections that could be improved with a roundabout.

It was motioned by M. Claudet and seconded by A. Levron to have the TAC further study the possibility of recommending intersections that could potentially be improved with the addition of roundabouts.

Agenda Item # 13

Other Business

L. Marretta reported that the intergovernmental agreement to include Lockport and Assumption Parish representation in the MPO has been sent to DOTD to be signed by the governor. No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 10

Next HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting

It was decided that the next meeting date of the Houma-Thibodaux MPO Policy Committee is to be held on November 12, 2009 at 12:00 PM.

Agenda Item # 11

Adjournment

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

Date: _____

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

South Central Planning & Development Commission

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OFFERED BY: Ms. Charlotte Randolph
SECONDED BY: Mr. Richard Champagne

Houma Thibodaux MPO
RESOLUTION NO. 2009-04

A Resolution supporting the La 1 Coalition or their designees for their funding request to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) for funding through the Tiger Discretionary Grant Program

WHEREAS, the *Houma Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization* is united by the Parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, and Terrebonne in supporting the La 1 Coalition, and

WHEREAS, \$1.5 billion of grant funds for state or local governments will be awarded by the Secretary of the USDOT through a competitive process to projects that have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region, and

WHEREAS, Priority will be given for projects that can be completed by February 17, 2012, and also that can complete a project's overall financing package, and

WHEREAS, the La 1 project has already received a Record of Decision for environmental clearance for all phases of the project, and has acquired all necessary rights-of-ways, and

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana has already invested over \$ 309 Million for building Phase I from Port Fourchon to Leeville, and

WHEREAS, Phase 2 is expected to cost \$330 Million and the LA 1 Coalition is seeking \$300 million from the Tiger Discretionary Grant fund, and

WHEREAS, \$30 Million will be provided by the Outer Continental Shelf revenues deposited in the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Trust Fund, and through other various local funding sources, and

WHEREAS, it has been long established that the strategic significance of Port Fourchon to the Gulf Of Mexico is critical to supporting over 18% of Nation's daily crude oil and 27% of Nation natural gas, and

WHEREAS, the accessibility of Port Fourchon is critical to servicing the oil and gas exploration and production infrastructure, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the *Houma Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization*, does hereby support the funding request by the La 1 Coalition or their designees to the United States Department of Transportation through the Tiger Discretionary Grant Program.

THERE WAS RECORDED:

YEAS: Mr. Charles Caillouet (Ms. Bonnie Lafont, Proxy), Mr. Richard Champagne, Mr. Michel Claudet, Mr. Pete Lambert, Ms. Charlotte Randolph, Mr. Michael Stack (Mr. Lyle Leblanc, Proxy), Mr. Martin Triche (Ms. Erin Watson, Proxy), Mr. Clayton Voisin, Ms. Arlanda Williams (Mr. Al Levron, Proxy)

NAYS: none

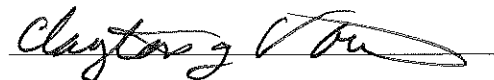
ABSTAINING: none

ABSENT: Mr. John Pizzolatto

The Chairman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 13th day of Aug, 2009.

* * * * *

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of the resolution adopted by the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization, on the above date mentioned.



Mr. Clayton Voisin, Chairman

Changes to the TIP in 2009

April 2, 2009 – Amended to include ARRA projects and reflect By-Law Changes to include Assumption and Lockport.

May 14 – Amended to reflect changes from May 14 Policy Committee meeting. Finalized ARRA projects and added backup projects.

June 4, 2009 – Administratively Changed Neel-Schaffer's latest project cost estimates.

June 11, 2009 – Administratively Changed several ARRA project names to match with DOTD project names. Removed LA 1 @ Justin Street and Church Street Intersection Improvements at Lockport's request.

June 22, 2009 – Administratively Changed and corrected typos.

June 26, 2009 – Administratively Changed Prospect Street Bridge's funding from FFY 2009-2010 / \$13,000,000 / STPFLEX-DEMO to FFY 2008-2009 / \$28,000,000 / STPFLEX-DEMO as per Jamie Setze email on 6/25/09.

July 15, 2009 – Administratively Changed Prospect Street Bridge's funding source to FBRON/DEMO as per Robin Romeo's email on 7/15/09.

August 4, 2009 – Administratively Changed adding correct funding sources to some FBRON projects that were previously left blank.

August 6, 2009 – Administratively Changed ITS Phase III funding from FFY 2010-2011 / \$2,000,000 (State Share) / State DOTD Construction to FFY 2009-2010 / \$1,600,000 (Fed Share), \$400,000 (State Share) / DEMO .

OFFERED BY: Mr. Michel Claudet

SECONDED BY: Ms. Arlanda Williams (Mr. Al Levron, Proxy)

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-05

A Resolution to amend the to the Houma Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Improvement Plan for FFY 2009-2010 and FFY 2010-2011.

WHEREAS, The Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization is responsible for transportation planning for the Houma-Thibodaux Urbanized Area, and

WHEREAS, the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization must create and maintain a Transportation Improvement Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development has proposed transportation improvements for the area in the Letting Schedule, as listed below:

	<u>Estimated</u> <u>Cost</u>	<u>Construction</u> <u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Fund Type</u>
Project Number 246-01-0054 LA 57 Widening	\$12,000,000	2010-2011	NHS

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MPO Policy Committee does hereby approve the addition of the above listed projects for inclusion in the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Improvement Plan.

THERE WAS RECORDED:

YEAS: Mr. Charles Caillouet (Ms. Bonnie Lafont, Proxy) , Mr. Richard Champagne, Mr. Michel Claudet, Mr. Pete Lambert, Ms. Charlotte Randolph, Mr. Michael Stack (Mr. Lyle Leblanc, Proxy), Mr. Martin Triche (Ms. Erin Watson, Proxy), Mr. Clayton Voisin, Ms. Arlanda Williams (Mr. Al Levron, Proxy)

NAYS: none

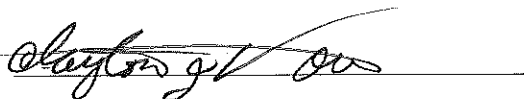
ABSTAINING: none

ABSENT: Mr. John Pizzolatto

The Chairman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 13th day of Aug, 2009.

* * * * *

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of the resolution adopted by the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization, on the above date mentioned.



Mr. Clayton Voisin, Chairman