

Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Technical Advisory Committee Minutes
October 27, 2009, 9:00 AM

Roll Call

Leo Marretta called roll.

Jamie Setze – Federal highway Administration – Present
Lyle Leblanc – LA DOTD Maintenance Engineer, Dist. 02 – Absent
Dennis Hebert – LA DOTD Traffic Engineer, Dist. 02 – Absent
Dan Broussard – LA DOTD Metropolitan Transportation Planning – Present
Donna Lavigne – LA DOTD Public Transportation Administrator – Absent
Terry Arabia – Lafourche Parish Public Works – Present
Pat Matherne – Lafourche Parish Planning Department – Absent
Perry Blanchard – TPCG Roads and Bridges – Absent
Joan Schexnayder – TPCG Engineering Department – Present
Pat Gordon – TPCG Director of Planning and Zoning – Proxy Mitch McDonald
Greg Bush – TPCG Director of Public Works – Absent
Eric Faucheaux – Thibodaux Public Works Administrator – Present
Bonnie Lafont – Thibodaux Grants Administrator – Present

Others in attendance:

Dawn Sholmire, LA DOTD
L. P. Ledet, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.
Vijay Kunada, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.
Jacob Oncale, Duplantis Design Group
Josh Manning, SCPDC
Scott Leger, SCPDC
Leo Marretta, SCPDC
Kevin Rizzo, T. Baker Smith

Agenda Item One – TIP / White Board meeting
Josh Manning, HTMPO Staff

J. Manning reported that the HTMPO staff had met with the LA DOTD Planning Department the previous week to discuss the status of the current TIP projects being funded with STP<200K dollars. He stated that:

Our current list of projects is over-funded. The lack of funding and the expanding costs of Hollywood Road and Country Drive have caused Westside Blvd, Phase B, to be taken out of the programmable years. This project is obviously one the MPO still endorses, but it is anticipated that it will be funded with money other than the STP<200K funds.

The following is a run-down on the progress of each of the other STP<200K projects.

Hollywood Road:

The money for the R/W acquisition, \$3.6 million, was obligated during the last Federal Fiscal Year. This money is safe and available to spend. The utility relocation phase is hinging on the R/W acquisition being done during the current fiscal year. If all goes well, this phase will start in March 2010 and will use approximately 3 million STP<200K dollars, though Terrebonne Parish is still working to come up with final costs. Many of the utilities, though not all, are owned by TPCG. This falls within the 09-10 FFY.

Construction is, for programming purposes, pushed back to FFY 10-11, and will cost approximately \$6.69 million.

Acadian Road:

The Environmental and Engineering for this project has been pushed back to FFY 09-10 due to the delay in getting the Stage 0 for the intersection complete. In the past, the intersection and the roadway were divided into separate projects, with the goal of having the road move forward while the preliminary work on the intersection was being completed. DOTD, however has informed us at this meeting that this is not possible due to the road not connecting to anything. FHWA (Mary Stringfellow) agreed and said that the intersection stage 0 needs to be complete before the Env./Eng. moves forward.

Once the Stage 0 is complete, the E&E can start.

Once the E&E is completed, we'll have a better handle on what R/W will need to be purchased. Hopefully our estimate of \$1.08 million will be accurate, and that process can begin in FFY 10-11.

Construction for this project will most likely need to be phased. One suggestion is to have the roundabout being let first (hopefully with 100% federal funding – Jamie can correct me if I'm wrong), since that is probably the biggest need at this time. The rest of the project could possibly be phased into several parts, though the MPO staff encourages Thibodaux/Lafourche to begin looking for alternative funding sources as well to expedite the project.

Country Drive:

For programming purposes, Country Drive Widening Phase A R/W acquisition and utility relocation will be starting in FFY 11-12 for \$2.33 million. Construction will begin in FFY 13-14 for \$4 million. This project is not feasible under the current programming.

It was discussed that some tough decisions have to be made in reference to the status and time frames for the three projects as there is a shortfall in the available funds (eighteen million) compared to the total project costs of all three combined (twenty eight million). The committee recommended that the Hollywood Road project stay in its current path as a result of the right of way acquisition and utility relocation funds being allocated.

It was further recommended that, TPCG and Thib/Lafourche meet with their consultants and request an updated cost estimate on the two remaining projects. The MPO staff will meet with both governments separately on 11-5-09 to review the revised cost estimates and then make recommendations for revised time frames associated with the projects in question. An attempt is being made to have the revised costs information ready for the Policy committee meeting scheduled on 11-12-09.

Agenda Item Two –MTP Update**Vijay Kunada and L. P. Ledet, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.**

A presentation was given by V. Kunada and L. P. Ledet of Neel-Schaffer. They reviewed the various data used to projecting the various demographics to the year 2035. Maps detailing future traffic network deficiencies were presented. They explained they are now entering the process of adding projects to the model and that any ideas for projects should be forwarded to them.

Agenda Item Three – Traffic Engineering RFQ (form RFQ subcommittee)**Leo Marretta, HTMPO Staff**

L. Marretta explained that the MPO has allocated \$12,000 of its planning funds for use by jurisdictions to use towards Professional Engineering Services. The breakdown of these funds will be the same as was used for the ARRA funding allocation, based on a pro-rata amount per jurisdiction. Under this scenario, Assumption would receive \$360; Lafourche would receive \$3,000; Lock port would receive \$240; Terrebonne would receive \$7,200; and Thibodaux would receive \$1,200. He stated that the MPO staff had prepared an RFQ to be sent out once the TAC reviewed the proposal and formed a subcommittee to select a consulting engineer.

Dan Broussard requested that this item be tabled until the MPO staff consults with DOTD and FHWA to ensure that proper federal guidelines are followed in the RFQ process.

Agenda Item Four – Consultant Updates**Leo Marretta, HTMPO Staff**

L. Marretta recommended that this agenda item be skipped as the consultants in attendance previously discussed their projected during Agenda Item One.

Agenda Item Five – Future Dates for HTMPO Technical Advisory Committee Meetings**Leo Marretta, HTMPO Staff**

L. Marretta suggested April 8, July 8, and October 14 of the year 2010 for future meeting dates. There was no objection to the suggested dates.