

Houma – Thibodaux
Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO)

South Central Planning and Development Commission Office
5058 West Main Street, Gray, LA 70359
985-851-2900

(As approved by the Policy Committee on May 13, 2010)

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

HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting

Date: January 21, 2010

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 – Proxy Pat Gordon 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 Erin Watson FHWA, Jamie Setze – Present
Staff:	Leo Marretta, SCPDC Joshua Manning, SCPDC Scott Leger, SCPDC Kevin Belanger, SCPDC
Others in Attendance:	Dennis Hebert – LA DOTD Gregory Boudreaux – Bayou Cane Fire Department Kermit Kramer – BDR Pat Matherne – Lafourche Parish Government Eric Faucheaux – City of Thibodaux Joan Schexnayder – TPCG Al Levron – TPCG Dawn R. Sholmire – LA DOTD Dan Broussard – LA DOTD Rosa Lou Molaison – Assumption COA Charlene Rodriguez – Lafourche COA Linda Pertait – Lafourche COA Wendell Voisin – TPCG Doug Bourg – TPCG Sheila Bella – TEDA A. F. "Bob" Blair, Jr. - Citizen Clay Breaud – GSE Jeff Messina – Urban Systems

Call to Order

C. Voisin called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

Invocation

J. Pizzolatto led the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

T. Arabie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

L. Marretta called roll.

Before beginning Agenda Item #1, C. Voisin explained that the MPO Bylaws state that the MPO Chairman and Vice Chairman are to be elected during the first Policy Committee meeting of even-numbered years. This was left off the agenda due to administrative oversight and must be added on by motion and vote before any action can be taken.

It was motioned by J. Pizzolatto to add Election of MPO Officers to the agenda, P. Gordon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Election of MPO Officers

P. Gordon nominated C. Voisin for MPO Chairman. J. Pizzolatto moved to close nominations. Motion passed unanimously. C. Voisin elected MPO Chairman.

M. Claudet nominated R. Champagne as MPO Vice Chairman. T. Arabie moved to close nominations. Motion passed unanimously. R. Champagne elected MPO Vice Chairman.

Agenda Item # 1

Approval of Meeting Notes from November 12, 2009 Policy Committee Meeting

It was motioned by J. Pizzolatto to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2009 meeting, M. Claudet seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 2

Public Comment

Chairman Voisin asked if there were any public comments.

No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 3

*Existing Transportation Project Update
Lyle Leblanc, LADOTD Area Engineer*

L. Leblanc updated the Policy Committee on DOTD District 02 projects currently under construction or soon to be let to bid.

A. Williams entered the meeting during the presentation at 12:10.

L. Marretta explained that the area engineer for DOTD District 61, the district covering Assumption Parish, was not able to make it to the meeting, but will try to attend in the future.

No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 4

ARRA Projects Update

Each Jurisdictions Staff and/or Consultants; Dawn Sholmire, LA DOTD

D. Sholmire gave a status update in each of the ARRA projects. She explained that the continuous turn lane in Matthews needed to increase in funding to \$2.2 million in order to be constructed to DOTD's standards, and asked that the TIP be amended to reflect this increase.

T. Arabie asked why the increase occurred. L. Leblanc explained that it was to increase the structural integrity of the shoulders.

K. Belanger and L. Marretta asked if the increase in funds would be the responsibility of the local jurisdictions or the MPO's STP<200K funds. D. Broussard of DOTD said the intention is to shift ARRA funds from projects coming in below bid to this one. Discussion ensued.

It was motioned by M. Claudet to amend the TIP to reflect the changes to the LA 1 continuous turn lane in Matthews funding, L. Leblanc seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Sholmire continued the presentation on the other ARRA projects. No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 5

Planned Transportation Projects Update

HTMPO Staff

North-South Hurricane Evacuation Corridor

K. Belanger updated the committee on the N-S Corridor's status. He explained that the project is in the Environmental Stages and that consultants are in the process of vetting all the different alternatives for the placement of the route. Discussion ensued.

ITS – Phase III and Phase IV

L. Marretta asked L. Leblanc to explain the upcoming traffic signal updates on LA 24 due to ITS improvements. L. Leblanc explained that that Neel-Schaffer recently completed a traffic signal warrant-analysis study on the LA 24 corridor to determine which lights were necessary and which were unnecessary. He said that the unnecessary lights would soon be removed from the corridor and that the remaining ones would be upgraded with ITS technology. As a result, the new lights will have much better synchronization, causing traffic to flow more freely. Discussion ensued.

L. Marretta explained that these updates are part of ITS Phase IV, and said that the TIP needs to be amended to reflect these changes.

K. Belanger said that bids for this project are expected to be approximately \$800,000 less than originally expected, and recommended the TIP be amended to use the extra funds to go towards the construction of a Traffic Management Center to be based at South Central Planning. Discussion ensued.

M. Claudet motioned to amend the TIP to reflect the initial ITS changes mentioned by L. Marretta; seconded by P. Gordon. Motion passed unanimously. (Attachment "A")

It was motioned by P. Gordon to amend the TIP to reflect that any additional funding left over after ITS Phase IV completion be used towards the construction of a Traffic Management Center, M. Claudet seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Items # 6

Changes to the Current TIP

Leo Marretta, MPO Administrator

J. Manning presented proposed changes to the TIP to ensure fiscal constraint. During this presentation, J. Pizzolatto exited the proceedings and appointed A. Levron as his proxy.

It was motioned by M. Claudet to amend the TIP to reflect the changes needed to bring the TIP into fiscal constraint, R. Champagne seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (Attachment "B")

L. Marretta then explained the need to issue letters to transit providers on an annual basis. He said that if LADOTD decides to award certain grants to providers, then the expenditures will be included in the TIP. Discussion ensued.

It was motioned by T. Arabie to issue the letters to the Terrebonne Parish Council on Aging, the Assumption Parish Council on Aging, the St. James Parish Government, the Assumption ARC, the Lafourche ARC, and the Lafourche Council on Aging, the Lafourche Special Ed. District No. 1, Good Earth Transit, and South Central Planning. R. Champagne seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (Attachment "C")

W. Voisin from Good Earth Transit then presented GET's 2010 program of projects for inclusion in the TIP.

It was motioned by P. Gordon to amend the TIP to include GET's 2010 program, A. Levron seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (Attachment "D")

At this time, D. Sholmire of LADOTD asked to address the committee on an additional TIP amendments needed to advance an LA DOTD project. She requested the TIP to be amended to include the phrase "Advance Construction" in the funding source for the LA 1 overlay in Lafourche Parish. Discussion ensued as to the scale and location of the project.

It was motioned by T. Arabie to amend the TIP to include the project requested by D. Sholmire of LA DOTD, L. Leblanc seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 7

*FHWA / LADOTD Approved "Policy and Procedures for the Employment of Consultants"
Leo Marretta, HTMPO Administrator*

L. Marretta presented the document entitled "Policy and Procedures for the Employment of Consultants" for adoption by the Policy Committee. He explained that adoption of the document would allow the MPO to employ consultants for certain projects. Discussion ensued.

It was motioned by L. Leblanc to adopt the document, R. Champagne seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 8

*Public Participation Plan
Josh Manning, HTMPO*

J. Manning explained that the MPO needs to update the Public Participation Plan to comply with SAFETEA-LU standards. L. Marretta said this process will require a 45-day public input process that will begin soon.

No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 9

*Livability, Sustainability and Air Quality
Jamie Setze, FHWA*

J. Setze stated that livability initiatives are being directed at MPOs and communities at the President's direction. He briefly defined livability and explained the reasons for the initiative.

No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 10

*2010 HTMPO Compliance Review and Certification
Genevieve Smith, FHWA*

J. Setze stated that the FHWA will be reviewing the HTMPO in February to make comments and suggestions on the organization.

No action necessary.

Agenda Item # 11

Other Business

J. Manning updated the committee on the 2009 traffic counting program.

L. Marretta explained the Superbowl planner and letting schedules included in the meeting packet. He then reviewed the upcoming Metropolitan Transportation Plan update timeline.

Agenda Item # 12

Next HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting

It was motioned by B. Lafont to that the next Policy Committee meeting be held on May 13, 2010, R. Champagne seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 13

Adjournment

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

Date:

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