

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 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**                      **Date:** June 14, 2012

**Meeting Location:**                      SCPDC’s Pelican Room, Gray, LA.

**In Attendance**

<b>Committee:</b>	Director of Planning and Zoning, TPCG – Patrick Gordon -- Chris Pulaski, Proxy Director of Public Works, TPCG – Greg Bush, Absent Engineering Division, TPCG – Represented by Joan Schexnayder, Absent Operations Manager, Roads and Bridges Division, TPCG – Perry Blanchard, Absent Public Transit Manager, TPCG – Wendell Voisin, Absent Public Works Director, Lafourche Parish – Represented by Terry Arabie, Present Planning Department, Lafourche Parish – Pat Matherne, Present Parish Manager/Public Works Director, Assumption Parish – Represented by Erin Watson, Absent Public Works Director, City of Thibodaux – Miguel Maggio, Absent Grants Director, City of Thibodaux – Luci Sposito, Absent Mayor, Town of Lockport – Richard Champagne, Absent Office of Planning and Programming, LA DOTD – Dan Broussard, Absent District 02 Traffic Engineer, LA DOTD – Dennis Hebert, Absent District 02 Maintenance Engineer, LA DOTD – Lyle Leblanc, Present Public Transportation Administrator, LA DOTD – Donna Lavigne, Absent Federal Highway Administration – Jamie Setze, Absent
<b>Staff:</b>	Joshua Manning, SCPDC Cassie Parker, SCPDC
<b>Others in Attendance:</b>	Dawn Sholmire, DOTD Jay Carney, DOTD Duffy Duplantis, Jr., TPCG Jack Gardner, TPCG Tim Bergeron, LDEQ Travis Lavigne, Fletcher T.C.C Warren Gonzales, AARC Christa Duplantis, TPCG Jason Sappington, RPC

**Agenda Item # 1**

*Roll Call and Introductions*

Introductions took place at approximately 10:05AM.

**Agenda Item # 2**

*Adoption of TAC Meeting Minutes from March 8, 2012*

L. Leblanc motions to approve the March 8, 2012 meeting minutes, T. Arabie seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item # 3**

*LA DOTD Project Update*

- Just completed the overlay on LA 58 and Highway 24
- Finished the Caminada Bridge
- The final acceptance has taken place in regards to the elevated section going towards Fourchon.
- Prospect Bridge- due to issues with the top wheels of the bridge and South Central Bell relocating telephone lines, the project's completion date has been delayed. The anticipation completion date at this time is August 2012.
- Grand Caillou widening has been postponed until next year (2013).
- Large project will be letting in the next week or two, which is to "four lane" lane US 90 from the Lafourche Parish line to the old garbage dump.
- Another project will be letting in approximately one month, which is to overlay 3235 from Highway 24 up until the point where it seems as though the asphalt is oxidizing.
- The Larose Bridge is on schedule and still expected to be completed by August.
- Planning for an overlay on Highway 20, from Gibson to Bull Run Road, in approximately 6 months.
- The next phase of the ITS job has been awarded and equipment has been ordered.
- A safety project is also approaching to straighten some of the curves on St. Charles Street.

**Agenda Item # 4**

*Other Local Project Updates*

Lafourche

T. Arabie gave the project update for Lafourche Parish

- He states that Lafourche is in the process of acquiring the right of way of the road for the project on Highway 24 and Highway 1 in Larose.
- The final phase of the completion of all of the streets in Golden Meadow began yesterday.
- In regards to the Burma Bridge project, the construction of the bridge is completed. It is anticipated that the bridge will open within the next couple of weeks.

Terrebonne

C. Pulaski gave the project update for Terrebonne Parish

- Comprehensive Master Plan Update will be taken to the Planning Commission in July.

J. Manning informs the Committee that he emailed Fred Borne and Anna Hanks and requested an update on Acadia Road, Country Drive, and Hollywood Road. There were no new updates for Hollywood Road; however, the Acadia Road project, which includes a new roadway and the addition of a roundabout, is progressing as planned. A. Hanks is in the process of composing the advertisement for the scope of services for the engineering contract, which will be going out for bids. The Country Drive widening project is also progressing as planned.

**Agenda Item # 5**

*Air Quality Update*

T. Bergeron with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) then gives a presentation on the Ozone Advanced Program. He gives a brief overview of what ozone is and how it is formed. He also informs the individuals of the Clean Air Act and some ozone terminology. The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for 6 criteria pollutants which include the following: Carbon Monoxide, Lead, Nitrogen Dioxide, Ozone, Particulate Matter and Sulfur Dioxide. The standards are then reviewed every five years and revised if necessary to protect health and welfare. There are two types of standards, primary and secondary. Primary standards protect public health (i.e. human health), while secondary standards protect public welfare (i.e. health of crops). He then covers designation and classification. Designation means that the monitored design value for the area does not meet the current ozone standard. Classification is dependent on the numerical design value and provides the obstacle course and time limit on attaining the standard. He then goes through each of the classifications. The classifications range from marginal (lowest state of non-attainment) to extreme (worst state of non-attainment). The local monitor to determine if the air is attainable or non-attainable is in Lafourche Parish, bordering Terrebonne Parish. T. Bergeron informed the committee that, at this time, the only area that is initially designated non-attainment is Baton Rouge.

T. Bergeron also explains that there are costs that come with being in non-attainment, such as, expensive environmental permitting process that can reduce the competitiveness of existing businesses and industries. Once in non-attainment, there is a potential risk of significant increases in economic costs (e.g. emissions controls and penalty fees) on industry if air quality does not improve sufficiently over time.

The committee was informed that the 2008 Ozone Standard was established and will go into effect on July 20, 2012. He further explains that the design value comes from the three year average of the fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour average ozone concentration measured at each monitor within an area. This number is then compared to the 8-hour primary ozone standard of 0.075 parts per million (ppm) to determine if it is protective of human health.

The Ozone Advance Program is then covered. He states that this program is from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), where they would like to be involved with state and local governments' strides to encourage emission reduction in areas that are currently in attainment of the ozone standard, so they can help those areas continue to stay in attainment. T. Bergeron then goes over the program goals listed as follows: assisting the attainment areas take action in order to keep ozone levels below the level of the standard to ensure continued health protection, better position areas to remain in attainment, and efficiently direct available resources toward actions to address ozone problems quickly.

He also states reasons why attainment areas should work to reduce ozone. Some reasons are to ensure continued health protection and that it is less resource intensive to implement measures early in the process. Furthermore, by being proactive, it could better position some area to stay in attainment. To be eligible for the program, the area must not be in nonattainment for either 1997 or 2008 8-hour standards at the time that they are accepted into the program. The local entity participating should also generally identify the area. DEQ will then identify the monitor(s) that reflect the area's air quality and also handle the emissions inventory report.

T. Bergeron then informs the committee of how to participate and what participation means for the community. To participate, the entity submits a letter of intent to EPA prior to initial designations under the 2008 ozone standard. The letter must be received by EPA before July 20, 2012 and copy Louisiana DEQ on the submittal. By participating, the entity will work to develop a "path forward" plan within a year. There is a possibility that by participating in the program, the entity could receive EPA support, preferred status for DERA grants, recognition, and/or a rallying point for public/stakeholder awareness and involvement.

**Agenda Item # 6**

*Good Earth Transit*

J. Manning informs the members of the next presentation, Good Earth Transit, and the potential route change due to L. E. Fletcher's new campus construction on LA 311. He states that public comments will be accepted for the potential route change at the end of the presentation.

J. Manning gives a brief overview of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). MPO's are federally mandated to plan a program where federal transportation dollars are spent on urban areas greater than 50,000 in population. The Houma-Thibodaux MPO is made up of portions of Assumption, Thibodaux, Lafourche, Lockport and Terrebonne. It is staffed by the Transportation Division of South Central Planning and Development Commission, which is one of the states eight regional planning commissions.

Good Earth Transit (GET) is the public transit division of Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government (TPCG). It provides a fixed route transit service within the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan area. Furthermore, it operates five bus routes in Houma and in Thibodaux, including the bus service between Houma and the City of Thibodaux.

J. Manning then gives some background about L.E. Fletcher Community College which was established through the Louisiana Legislature in 1948. Fletcher is an open admission, two year institute that offers technical and academic programs. The main campus is currently located on St. Charles Street in Houma; however, there are other facilities on Dickson Road, and Civic Center Boulevard. The anticipated date of completion for L.E. Fletcher's new location on Highway 311 is late July. L.E. Fletcher demographics include approximately 2700 students, 200 faculty/staff, and it is expected that 1600-1700 students, faculty/staff will be using the new facility on LA 311.

J. Manning further states that L.E. Fletcher did an internal email survey to get more information in regards to how many students and/or faculty are interested in this form of transportation. Of the 134 student respondents, 67% stated that they would be interested in using GET services for the 311 campus. J. Manning then presents a map with GET current route and then proposed new route.

J. Manning then states that W. Voisin informed him that the public transit division, Good Earth Transit, was developed with a mission to enhance the mobility of the residents and positively influence the development of Terrebonne Parish. J. Manning explains that W. Voisin is in favor of this route change because of the high level of importance to provide residents with access to education facilities, such as L.E. Fletcher and Nicholls.

He then presents a map of GET current route and its proposed new route to connect with L.E. Fletcher campus. J. Manning also explains that the new route will add ten additional minutes to the current route. The additional cost would be 3 bus hours per week day and approximately 1.2 bus hours on weekends, providing an equal amount of service to Fletcher, as it would to the rest of the

North Bayou Route. W. Voisin current cost per bus hour is \$76.00. Therefore, the cost to take this extra route would total approximately \$28,456 for the remainder of the 2012 fiscal year, ending in October. J. Manning explains that W. Voisin is not proposing to increase GET's budget for the remainder of the year; however, he will begin conducting an analysis on certain routes to deem if it would be possible to adjust those routes or reschedule the bus system.

J. Manning opens the floor to any comments regarding this agenda item. T. Arabie states that he believes it is a great idea that GET is helping L.E. Fletcher students and faculty/staff find means of transportation to the location from Houma and Thibodaux. However, he would like to know if there are any options of having the route run from Highway 1 back to Highway 90 to accommodate those students and faculty/staff residing in Lafourche Parish. If so, what are the costs? J. Manning explains that this is an issue that can be further evaluated. He stated that if T. Arabie is interested in pursuing this matter, he would be glad to meet with him, along with W. Voisin and L. Marretta, to possibly find a solution.

It was motioned by T. Arabie, seconded by C. Pulaski to recommend Good Earth Transit's route change to the Policy Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item # 7**

*TIP Amendment to Recommend to Policy Committee*

J. Manning explains that GET would like to move funds from their Operating Assistance to their Capital Assistance, particularly for the fuels capital. He further states, that from his understanding, there will be no changes in the total cost allocation or local match.

It was motioned by T. Arabie, seconded by L. Leblanc to recommend the TIP Amendment to the Policy Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item # 8**

*Update on Natural Gas mailing list*

J. Manning reminds those interested in Natural Gas to subscribe to out mailing list.

**Agenda Item # 9**

*Other Business*

**Agenda Item # 10**

*Next Meeting Date: Thursday September 13, 2012 10 AM*

**Agenda Item # 11**

*Adjournment*

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:33AM.