

Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Policy Committee Minutes
August 15, 2002, 1:00 pm

1. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Scott Leger.

2. Prayer

The Prayer was lead by Mr. Peter Rhodes.

3. Roll Call

Chairman, Mr. Peter Rhodes called roll.

Lafourche Parish President, Mr. Gerald Breaux-Absent

Terrebonne Parish President, Mr. Bobby Bergeron-Present by proxy
Pat Gordon - Alternate

City of Thibodaux Mayor, Mr. Charles Caillouet-Present by proxy
Kermit Kraemer - Alternate

Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Ms. Christa Duplantis-Present by proxy
Jason Benoit - Alternate

Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Mr. Peter Rhodes-Present

Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Mr. Wayne Thibodaux-Present

Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Mr. Clayton Voisin-Present by proxy

Paul Labat - Alternate

LADOTD, Mr. John Evanco-Present

4. Approval of minutes from June 19, 2001 meeting.

Moved by Mr. Wayne Thibodaux, seconded by Mr. Paul Labat, passed.

5. Approval of the Unified Planning Work Program – 2003 UPWP

Moved by Wayne Thibodaux, seconded by Mr. Peter Rhodes, passed.

6. Introduction of the Draft Transportation Improvement Program – 2003 TIP

Discussion incurred about the projects included in the 2003 Draft TIP. Mr. Wayne Thibodaux asked for a map of the new Houma-Thibodaux Urbanized Area recently designated by the US Census Bureau and based on the 2000 Census. Staff provided this map during the meeting. A question was raised about the status of the North-South Corridor. Mr. Wayne Thibodaux made a motion to draft a resolution in support of the North-South Corridor. The motion was seconded by Kermit Kraemer and was passed. A motion was made by Mr. Paul Labat to introduce the 2003 Draft TIP and open the public comment period. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wayne Thibodaux and was passed.

7. Update of the Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan – 25 year plan
Staff updated the committee on the status of the 25 year Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan that is currently underway and being performed by consultants Neel-Schaffer Inc. Staff has completed the gathering of demographic and employment data for the travel demand model. Staff is currently conducting traffic counts at approximately 80 locations in the Urbanized Area.
8. Review of the Houma Intelligent Transportation System - HITS
Staff updated the committee on the status of the Houma Intelligent Transportation System (HITS) project currently underway and being performed by consultants PB Farradyne. Staff informed the committee that the initial interviews with local communication, emergency, law enforcement and transportation officials have been completed by the consultants. Mr. Peter Rhodes requested an agenda for the next ITS Steering Committee. Staff assured Mr. Rhodes that the committee would receive one when they are available from the consultants.
9. Update of the Public Transit Tri-annual Review
Staff updated the committee on the Public Transit Tri-Annual Review performed by the Federal Transit Authority (FTA). Houma Public Transit received a very good review from FTA. Staff reported that the FTA only had to spend one half of a day with transit staff to complete the review.
10. Request for 2003 Enhancement Projects
Staff informed the committee that request for transportation enhancement projects for the 2003 year could be accepted and applied for.
11. Discussion of the Traffic Measuring Program
Staff reported that the traffic measuring program was very active and that the MPO was regularly purchasing new traffic counters. Staff stated that the MPO currently has over 25 traffic counting devices with most of them in the field at all times. Staff also stated that 2 part time employees have been hired to fulfill the traffic counting request.
12. Discussion of the Traffic Calming Program
Staff informed the committee that a Traffic Calming Program was being prepared for the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government. Staff stated that this report would be ready some time in late September and would be presented to the TPCG Planning & Zoning Department. The committee requested a copy of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Staff stated that copies of the manual would be burned on CD-ROM and mailed to committee members.

13. Discussion of the HTMPO Website (www.htmppo.org)

Staff updated the committee on the status of the HTMPO website. Staff stated that the website was under construction and when finished would contain all important MPO documents and maps. Staff stated that the website would also have a public comment form where anyone could post comments on transportation issues.

14. Review of Census 2000 Data

Staff updated the committee on the availability of Census 2000 data. Staff stated that most of the data is available now except for SF3 data which is the long form data containing income and socio-economic information. Staff stated that SF3 data is scheduled to be released in late September 2002.

15. Review of Transportation Project updates

Staff briefly updated the committee on the status of several transportation projects including the Prospect Street Bridge at Bayou Terrebonne. Staff also informed the committee about the possibility of having a traffic engineering training course.

16. Next Policy Committee meeting date September 19, 2002 1:00 PM

Staff informed the committee that the next Policy Committee meeting would be held on September 19, 2002 at 1:00 PM.

17. Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Wayne Thibodaux, seconded by Mr. Paul Labat, passed.