

Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Policy Committee Minutes
July 8, 2004, 2:00 PM

1. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Peter Rhodes
2. Prayer
The Prayer, Ms. Leesa Foreman
3. Roll Call
Mr. Scott Leger called roll
Lafourche Parish President, Ms. Charlotte Randolph-Absent
Terrebonne Parish President, Mr. Don Schwab-Present, proxy Mr. Pat Gordon
City of Thibodaux Mayor, Mr. Charles Caillouet-Present, proxy Ms. Bonnie Lafont
Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Mr. Harold Lapeyre-Present, proxy Ms. Leesa Foreman
Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Mr. Peter Rhodes-Present
Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Mr. Wayne Thibodeaux-Present
Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Mr. Clayton Voisin-Present
LADOTD, Mr. Tom Payment-Present, proxy Mr. Roland Maurin
4. Approval of minutes from June 3, 2004 meeting
Moved, C. Voisin, second, L. Foreman, no discussion, passed.
5. Public Hearing: Opportunity for public to provide input on the 2004-2005 Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
No public comments.
6. Call for motion to adopt 2004-2005 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
P. Gordon made a motion to adopt the 2004-2005 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The motion was seconded by C. Voisin and was passed.
7. Introduction of the Draft Transportation Improvement Program – 2005 TIP
K. Ghirardi described the major updates to the 2005 TIP. He stated that as was the case with the 2003 TIP and the 2001 TIP, additional funds allocated to the Houma-Thibodaux MPO area were simply added to existing projects because of the increasing costs of these projects especially the rights-of-way acquisition costs. K. Ghirardi then described the cost increases for each project in the TIP. He added that because of these cost increases, the phases of the projects (Engineering, Right-of-Way, Utility relocation and Construction) have been pushed back a year or

two. K. Ghirardi stated that the construction phase of Westside Boulevard Extension has been shifted from Stage I of the MTP (Metropolitan Transportation Plan) to Stage II of the plan as was requested by the committee. K. Ghirardi stated that through meetings with the LADOTD, the Houma Area will receive more annual funds to be allocated for roadway capacity projects. He added that this should help accelerate the completion of some of the projects that are under-funded at this time.

R. Maurin asked why some overlay projects were listed in the 2005 TIP but not all the other overlay projects that his LADOTD Section performs. K. Ghirardi stated that any project on the LADOTD letting schedule or any project that the state performs using federal funding must be listed in the TIP if it is in the Houma-Thibodaux Urbanized Area.

L. Foreman asked if there were any plans in the near future to address the traffic congestion/turning lane problems that are occurring on Martin Luther King Boulevard in the vicinity of Wal-Mart. R. Maurin stated that he was aware of the problems but that there were no plans to address the congestion/turning lane problems in that area at this time. He added that development plans are reviewed as they come in. P. Gordon stated some kind of access management would be beneficial in that area. K. Ghirardi stated that the LADOTD is currently working on a state access management plan. L. Foreman asked what it would take for the LADOTD to study the traffic movements along MLK and recommend some changes that would benefit the traffic flow in that area. R. Maurin stated that all it would take is a request to the Traffic Engineer of LADOTD to take a look at what can be done on MLK to improve traffic movements. A motion was made by P. Gordon for LADOTD to investigate left turning movements on Martin Luther King Boulevard. The motion was seconded by W. Thibodeaux and was passed.

8. Determine date of next MPO Policy Committee meeting

It was decided by the committee to hold the next MPO meeting on Thursday, August 12, 2004 at 2:00 P.M.

9. Other Business

W. Thibodeaux suggested that the MPO start prioritizing Stage II of the MTP and asked that it be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. K. Ghirardi stated that it would be a good idea to start evaluating the Stage II projects and start prioritizing them.

10. Adjournment

W. Thibodeaux made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by P. Gordon and was passed.