

Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Policy Committee Minutes
September 29, 2005, 12:30 PM

1. Prayer

The Prayer, Mr. Scott Leger

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Scott Leger

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-Absent

Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Mr. Harold Lapeyre-Present, proxy Mr. Wendell Voisin

Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Mr. Peter Rhodes-Present

Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Mr. Wayne Thibodeaux-Present X

Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Mr. Clayton Voisin-Absent

LADOTD, Mr. Tom Payment-Present

4. Approval of Minutes from June 30, 2005 meeting.

Moved, P. Gordon, second, T. Payment, no discussion, passed.

5. FHWA presentation on Access Management and Land Use – Mr. Jamie Setze, FHWA

Mr. Jamie Setze could not attend this meeting due to personal reasons. Mr. Setze presentation was postponed until the next MPO meeting on December 1, 2005.

6. Project updates

T. Payment gave a brief update on the status of the transportation infrastructure damage and repair in the New Orleans area and in the Lafourche-Terrebonne area. Mr. Payment stated that the state is going to have a hard time coming up with the local matches required to obtain federal funding for transportation improvements. He added that any MPO or local government who can come up with local matching funds will benefit and keep the federal funds flowing towards their projects. Mr. Jimmy Ledet gave an update on the Country Drive project and stated that preliminary plans have been completed and sent on to DOTD. He added that he is now waiting for authorization to begin preparing final plans and Right-of-Way acquisitions. Mr. Ledet stated that the plans call for 11' lanes and 4' shoulders. Mr. Ledet stated that 60% of the preliminary plans on the Grand Caillou road project

have been submitted to DOTD. He added that the plans call for a 5-lane section with subsurface drainage. K. Ghirardi stated that the Westside Boulevard project is currently in the right-of-way acquisition phase. K. Ghirardi then stated that the ITS project is well under way and is progressing into phase III. K. Ghirardi stated that the Urban Systems consultants will be building a CORSIM micro simulation model to demonstrate how the ITS integrated signal system will work graphically. He added that the parish is prepared to spend about \$1,000,000 to improve 8-10 intersections.

7. Other Business

K. Ghirardi stated that staff has been collecting hurricane information for informational and reference purposes. Mr. Danny Walker stated that the Statement of Purpose of Need for the North/South Corridor has been changed to de-emphasize the need for hurricane evacuation. He added that hurricane evacuation should be placed back into the Statement of Purpose of Need and emphasized much more. He added that this would increase the chances of keeping them focused on the project and obtaining some priority funding. A motion was made by P. Gordon to send a letter to DOTD requesting that hurricane evacuation be placed in the Statement of Purpose of Need for the North/South Corridor project. The motion was seconded by W. Thibodaux and was passed.

8. Adjournment

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