

Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Policy Committee Minutes
March 30, 2006, 12:30 PM

1. Prayer

The Prayer, Mr. Wayne Thibodeaux

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Mr. Scott Leger called roll.

Lafourche Parish President, Ms. Charlotte Randolph-Absent

Terrebonne Parish President, Mr. Don Schwab-Present

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

Terrebonne Parish Council Member, Mr. Harold Lapeyre-Present

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. Paul Lambert

4. Approval of Minutes from December 1, 2005 meeting.

It was moved by D. Schwab, seconded by W. Thibodeaux, to approve the minutes of December 1, 2005. Motion passed.

5. Public: Opportunity for general public to address the committee.

There was no one from the public wanting to address the committee.

6. Election of MPO Policy Committee Officers for Year 2006-2008

Chair/Vice Chair

W. Thibodeaux moved to nominate Peter Rhodes as Chairman, seconded by D. Schwab. Motion carried.

K. Kraemer moved to accept Peter Rhodes by acclamation, seconded by W. Thibodeaux. Motion carried.

D. Schwab moved to nominate Clayton Voisin as Vice Chairman, seconded by H. Lapeyre. Motion carried

K. Kraemer moved to accept Clayton Voisin by acclamation, seconded by W. Thibodeaux. Motion carried

7. Timeline for 2006-2007 UPWP adoption (March 30th Introduction, June 29th Adoption)

K. Ghirardi presented the UPWP. He explained that the UPWP is very similar to the past years except that the budget numbers are different and that there is an increase in funding this year as a result of the new six year transportation bill (TLOU). He said that the increase was about \$120,000.

P. Gordon asked that the MPO consider making the Unified Work to include a planner position to address traffic studies. K. Ghirardi stated that a specific task could be created for this. He said that the MPO does need technical help since S. Leger has moved into a GIS position. He said that he has had conversations with K. Belanger and felt that this is the perfect time to talk about how the MPO will accomplish these tasks. He recommended hiring an engineer to do these traffic studies. K. Ghirardi was asked about the salary and he replied that it could range from \$45,000 to \$80,000. There was discussion about contracting out the position. H. Lapeyre stated his concern with getting studies out timely. Discussion ensued. It was requested that a packet be put together by K. Ghirardi to see if hiring an in house employee or contracting the position out would be better. P. Rhodes stated that a special meeting could be called to discuss this further if needed. W. Thibodeaux asked when the public hearings would be held for the UPWP. K. Ghirardi stated that the public hearings would be held at the next meeting which is scheduled for June 29, 2006.

8. Project updates: Westside Boulevard, Phase B

Clay Breaud of Gulf South Engineers updated the Committee on the progress of Westside Boulevard, Phase B. He said that it has been delayed due to acquisition of right of ways.

Discussion ensued on the EIS for Westside Boulevard, Phase B. H. Lapeyre asked if this Committee adopted the Terrebonne Parish Master Plan as far as roads are concerned. K. Ghirardi stated that the Long Range Transportation Plan was in the works before and during that process. He said that he felt that the two mesh very well. P. Gordon stated that SCPDC was part of the Master Plan process. K. Ghirardi updated the Committee on some of the other ongoing projects.

9. Other Business

S. Leger stated that after reviewing Article IV, Section 5 of the By-Laws he asked that the members designate an alternate representative. He said that if the time comes where the member or the alternate cannot attend then written documentation could be sent allowing someone else to serve as proxy at that meeting.

D. Schwab introduced Mike Ferdinand of TEDA.

10. Adjournment

W. Thibodeaux moved, seconded by C. Voisin to adjourn.