

MEETING MINUTES

HTMPO Policy Committee Meeting

Date: October 27, 2016

Meeting Location: Terrebonne Parish Library, North Branch

In Attendance:

Committee:	<p>Present: Luci Sposito, LPG Mayor Tommy Eschete, City of Thibodaux– Proxy Thad Angelloz Christa Duplantis-Prather, TPCG Dirk Guidry, TPCG Arlanda Williams, TPCG, proxy Chris Pulaski Al Marmande, TPCG Christopher Morvant, LA DOTD District 02</p> <p>Absent: Martin Triche, Assumption Parish Police Jury President Mayor Ron Animashaun, Village of Napoleonville James Cantrelle, Lafourche Parish President Mayor Paul Champagne, Town of Lockport Gordon Dove, Terrebonne Parish President Brandon Buckner, Federal Highway Administration LA Division</p>
Staff:	<p>Kevin Belanger, SCPDC Pat Gordon, SCPDC Arianna Choudhuri, SCPDC Scott Leger, SCPDC Josh Manning, SCPDC Cassie Parker Emma Bergeron, SCPDC</p>
Others in Attendance:	<p>Jeffrey Leuenberger, LPG Al Levron, TPCG Gary Gisclair, LA DOTD Tracey Wang, LA DOTD</p>

D. Guidry called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

Invocation: C. Duplantis-Prather

Pledge of Allegiance: C. Duplantis-Prather

Roll Call and Submittal of Proxy Letters:

The following proxy letters were submitted:

- Mr. Thad Angelloz will serve as proxy for Mr. Tommy Eschete.
- Mr. Chris Pulaski will serve as proxy for Ms. Arlanda Williams.

Introductions took place.

Agenda Item # 1

General Public Comment

K. Belanger introduced P. Gordon as SCPDC's new Planning Director.

Agenda Item # 2

Approval of Minutes from July 28th, 2016 Meeting

It was motioned by C. Duplantis-Prather to approve the July 28th, 2016 Policy Committee meeting minutes. C. Morvant seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 3

Project Updates

a. Letting Schedules & Current DOTD Project Updates

G. Gisclair updated the Policy Committee on the following projects:

Terrebonne Parish

- LA182 overlay project from US90 to LA1, 70% complete.
- Bayou Sallee Road (LA57) overlay project has begun, 20% complete.
- Hollywood Road widening project was approximately 85% complete.
- Country Drive widening project was 30% complete.
- Turn Lanes on Hwy 311 (at the Bayou Country Soccer Field) bid has been awarded.
- Lafayette Street Overlay bid has been awarded.
- Replacement of Hwy 660 Bridge was expected to let in April 2017.
- Replacement of Robinson Canal Bridge was expected to let in June 2017.

Lafourche Parish

- LA20 (Canal Blvd) widening project was 98% complete.
- West Larose Lift Bridge rehab project was 75% complete.
- LA308 widening project near Lafourche Crossing was 90% complete.
- LA308 Tiger Drive turn lane project bid has been awarded.
- City of Thibodaux street overlay projects bid date has been set for December 14th.
- US90 overlay project from LA182 to LA1 bid process was scheduled for December 14th.

C. Duplantis-Prather relayed she was still receiving complaints about noise issues of the Twin Spans. Several solutions have been tried but the issue has yet to be resolved. She also inquired as to the status of creating one ways along East Park and East Main from Howard Avenue to the Twin Spans and the swapping of East Park and East Main (under the overpass) from State Roads to Parish Roads. T. Wang stated she has received the resolution in support of the one way and will email it to C. Morvant. C. Morvant stated the State's preference may to do a road transfer and give the Parish credits for taking over the roads. C. Duplantis-Prather inquired about painting murals on the Twin Spans. C. Morvant relayed that DOTD was currently working statewide to create a permit for that.

b. Locally Funded Projects Update

C. Pulaski updated the Policy Committee on Terrebonne Parish's projects.

- Bayou Gardens Extension and Thompson Road were under construction.
- Westside Blvd Ph 3 from MLK to Hwy 311 has opened. The traffic signal on MLK Blvd was working.
- Falgout Canal Pontoon Bridge has been completed.

- Country Drive Widening Phase A was under construction.
- Hollywood Road extension (from Valhi to Southdown Mandalay Rd) was in design.
- Bidding process was underway for the King Bayou's Bridge replacement.
- Mayfield Bridge #1 was in design.
- Hwy 24 Sidewalks final plan packet has been sent to DOTD.
- WestPark Sidewalks advanced check prints have been sent to DOTD.
- Eastside Sidewalks were in design.

A. Levron stated he had been monitoring chatter on Facebook. People have been complaining about the sequencing of the Westside Blvd/MLK Blvd light. T. Wang stated she go out and observe the intersection. Heavy stacking of cars have been taking place on MLK Blvd. The roundabout on Enterprise/Westside Blvd extension was working out well.

L. Sposito posed a safety concern question. Permits are being given to open businesses along LA 1 and Hwy 308. She inquired if DOTD takes into consideration safety when businesses apply for access connection permits. C. Morvant replied, yes DOTD does consider safety. DOTD assesses the site to make a determination as to what can be done to make access safer. She also inquired about businesses having access to neighborhood streets. An Access Management Plan was suggested. K. Belanger offered SCPDC's services to help craft a plan.

Agenda Item # 4 ***Committee Reports***

a. TAC Committee Report

J. Manning stated that the TAC met on September 8th. The TAC discussed many of the same items which are on the Policy Committee's agenda. The Safety Coalition Infrastructure and Operations subcommittee met at the same time. Staff is in the process of creating for each of the MPO's parishes a local road safety plan that will detail area high crash locations which would help the parishes put a prioritization in place for projects which the parishes could apply for the Local Road Safety Program funding.

b. Safety Coalition Report

C. Parker relayed that the SCRSC unveiled their DWI BAT mobile. Currently working with local high schools to promote two initiatives: "Buckle Up, Every Seat, Every Trip" and "Capturing Safety through the Eyes of a Teen" Contest.

c. Transit Committee Report

S. Leger stated the Transit Committee was beginning to update the CHST plan. He distributed to the Policy Committee a copy of the Self-Assessment Tool for each to give their input and return back to him. It was requested for an electronic version to be emailed. C. Duplantis-Prather inquired about after-hours public transit. It was stated that it would be quite costly to offer such a service.

i. Upcoming Greyhound Presentation

J. Manning stated he made contact with Mr. Stephen Abernathy of Greyhound. Mr. Abernathy has made a commitment to make a presentation in 2017. J. Manning plans to follow up with Mr. Abernathy in January in order to set a presentation date.

ii. Amtrak, Schriever Station Upgrades

J. Manning relayed to the Committee that the HT-MPO staff was considering putting a coalition together which would encompass all the MPO's (Lake Charles, Lafayette, Houma, New Orleans) along the Amtrak route. He plans to speak with the other MPO's at the LPC to see if there was an interest to form a coalition to see what traction would be there for Amtrak to considering offering daily services.

Agenda Item # 5

Old Business

a. 2017 Transportation Improvement Plan Call for Projects

J. Manning stated there was approximately \$8.7 million in STP<200K funding available for transportation projects in the Houma-Thibodaux region for 2017-2020. Project application deadline has been set for October 31, 2016. The applications will be reviewed and recommended for selection by the TAC at the December TAC meeting.

b. Lafourche Parish Transportation Plan

In September several public workshops were held to discuss the Lafourche Parish Transportation Plan. The workshops were well attended, received a great deal of feedback. At this time, they are gathering data. In the months to come, staff will begin documenting the information/ideas and recommending projects and policies. It's J. Manning's goal to have a draft document completed in the first quarter of 2017. December of 2017 is the deadline for the final document to be completed.

c. DOTD's "Road Show"

HT-MPO staff attended DOTD's Road Show. A letter listing highway priority needs for the HT-MPO Region was submitted, the letter was included in the meeting packet for everyone to read.

Agenda Item # 6

New Business

a. TIP Changes

i. Amendment Needed: Lafourche Parish Multi-Use Trail

J. Leunberger requested the TIP be amended. Lafourche Parish Government would like the funding from the existing LA1 Corridor Study (US90 to LA654) \$250K and the Mathews/Raceland Small Area Study \$250K to be utilized instead for the engineering phase for LA1 Multiuse Trail Project in Central Lafourche. The TAC passed a motion recommending to the Policy Committee the combining of these funds. It was motioned by C. Duplantis-Prather to combine the funds for the LA1 Corridor Study and the Mathews/Raceland Small Area Study to be utilized instead for the engineering phase for LA1 Multiuse Trail Project in Central Lafourche. L. Sposito seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ii. Administrative Modifications

Administrative modifications have been made to the TIP. For informational purposes those changes were provided to the Policy Committee within the meeting packet. The Prospect Blvd Sidewalks, Civic Center Sidewalks and LA24 Sidewalk Rehab did not make the Fed FY2016 for Engineering Services. Those said projects will be moved to the FFY2017.

b. Brownfields Program

A. Choudhuri spoke to the TAC in regards of the Brownfields Assessment Grant awarded to the Region. \$400,000 in grant funding has been awarded for assessments and \$700,000 in loan monies designated for cleanup. The grant cycle begins October 1st, 2016.

c. Air Quality Advance Coalition/Update

SCPDC staff will soon begin updating their Path Forward plan. The goal is to expand this plan to cover all the parishes within the SCPDC region. In order to expand the Path Forward A. Choudhuri explained how SCPDC was in the process of establishing a Regional Air Quality Coalition and were in need of volunteers from the local jurisdictions to serve on the Coalition. Quarterly meetings will be held over the course of one year to work on developing specific, measurable, assignable, realistic, and timely (SMART) goals to improve air quality in the SCPDC region.

d. Transportation Alternative Program Grant Deadline

C. Parker relayed the deadline for DOTD's "Call for Applications" for their Transportation Alternatives program was 3:30pm, October 31, 2016. Both Terrebonne and Lafourche has an application to submit.

e. Local Road Safety Program Grant Deadline

Applications for the Local Road Safety Program Grant are taken throughout the year; however, they have quarterly deadlines: March, June, September, and December. The HT-MPO encourages for the Parishes to take advantage of this program. A copy of the application was included in the meeting packet.

Agenda Item # 7

Adjournment

The next meeting date is Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 12:00pm.

It was motioned by C. Pulaski to adjourn the meeting. A. Marmande seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT