

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE TRANSPORTATION POICY COUNCIL
FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON TRANSPORTATION
MANAGEMENT AREA

DATE: Friday, October 26, 2007
TIME: 9:32 a.m.
PLACE: Houston-Galveston Area Council, 3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor
Conference Room A, Houston, TX 77027

Chairman James Patterson called the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

Secretary Tom Reid announced that there was a quorum; 14 compromise a quorum. A quorum was declared present as recorded on the Roll Call included with these Minutes as Attachment 1. Attachment 2 lists persons in attendance other than members or their representatives.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Ashby Johnson introduced Mr. Bill Crow with Congressman Culberson's office.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Secretary Tom Reid made a motion for the approval of the August 24, 2007 Minutes and Ms. Sue Lovell seconded the motion. The Council voted and adopted the Minutes.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO 2008 – 2011 TIP AND 2035 RTP

Ms. Lynn Spencer gave a brief overview of the TIP that was approved in August of 2007. Since the August adoption, revisions were made to some projects. The revisions resulted in an increase in the total budget from 13.7 billion to 14.1 billion. Mr. Johnson pointed out that no projects were removed from the TIP but changes were made to some of the existing projects.

Mr. Johnson gave a brief overview of the changes to the 2035 RTP. The revisions to the 2035 RTP included changes on SH 99 and SH 36. The changes to SH 99 removed Phase 2 projects to widen the toll road from 4 to 6 lanes. On SH 36, Phase 2 projects to widen the highway from 4 to 6 lanes in Fort Bend County were removed.

The financial plan for the RTP was revised to ensure its compliance with SAFETEA-LU which requires project costs to be shown in year of expenditure dollars. The financial plan also attempts to capture total costs for projects, not just the capital cost of construction as shown in previous RTPs. As a consequence of those changes, there is about a \$28 billion change in revenue and expenditures for the 2035 RTP.

The RTP text changes included the addition of Appendix I, a Smart Streets concept paper, meant to clarify the Smart Streets Concept. Appendix J was also added to document the public involvement process, comments and responses to public comment for the 2035 RTP. Other text changes included minor adjustments to the Regional Bike Plan and the addition of a discussion on a greenbelt concept in the RTP.

Secretary Tom Reid made a motion for the adoption of the Amendments to 2008 – 2011 TIP and 2035 RTP. Ms. Lovell seconded the motion. The Council voted and adopted.

VANPOOL BRANDING PROCESS

Mr. David McMaster of METRO provided an update on the Regional Vanpool Program. This program operates with federal grant funding as well as METRO local dollars to support service in an 8 county area in and around Houston.

A brief history and background of the program's progress was presented and the need to consolidate the operations of the program into one entity. Having a single unified program will identify and mark each vanpool vehicle and provide a single point of contact for customers. The benefits also include simplification of the fare structure, establishment of long-term van lease programs, and assurance that all drivers and back up drivers receive adequate training and instruction regarding safety when operating vanpools.

Mr. McMaster requested the Council's input into the brand name by making this visible to the people in their community. Information on the Vanpool Branding Process maybe found on the web at www.vanpoolbrand.com.

US 90 DAYTON-LIBERTY STUDIES

Ms. Kim Sachtleben, P.E., PBSJ presented the progressive studies performed for the Beaumont District regarding US 90 Dayton-Liberty that identifies short-term and longer-term traffic improvements for the area.

A map was provided with 19 alternatives developed in conjunction with the Beaumont District. The map shows new location facilities and improvements to existing routes. The Findings section shows the need for capacity improvements due to poor levels of service on the existing system. All of the alternatives provided traffic flow benefits over the Existing + Committed system.

After conferring with the Beaumont District, 5 alternatives were selected for a Feasibility Study based on performance, cost, impacts, and benefit cost analysis. Alternative A1 was selected. This alternative includes the construction of bypasses around the cities of Dayton and Liberty. Next steps are for the Beaumont District to initiate a Toll Feasibility Study and begin the NEPA process.

HIGHLIGHTS OF REGIONAL SAFETY CONFERENCE

Mr. Jeff Kaufman provided the highlights of the 2nd Annual Regional Safety Conference. The conference discussed the future of traffic safety by improving roads, technology and crash safety vehicles. Breakout sessions focus topics included DWI, Freight Safety Discussion, Bicycle-Pedestrian Safety, red light cameras, school bus and child safety restraints. Overall the conference was a success and work will begin on next year's conference.

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

HGAC The 2008 TIP Development Survey is online. This will provide an opportunity to review the process and procedures to make improvements for the next TIP development cycle. The 2007 Project Development Workshop will be held on November 7, 2007.

Harris County Planning activities include ongoing negotiations with TxDOT concerning development of 6 projects authorized by Senate Bill 792. A report will be published on the status and progress within the next 30 days. Discussions on SH 99, Grand Parkway, will continue with the Council and TxDOT.

METRO After 18 months of study on the University Corridor, the alternative analysis results and DEIS results were brought before

the METRO Board. The Board selected the locally preferred alignment for the University Corridor. The final environmental impact statement will now be submitted to FTA. The Board also approved light rail transit instead of bus rapid transit as the preferred technology on all five METRO Solutions corridors.

TxDOT (Houston District) On a statewide perspective the issue is that there are going to be cuts in funding. Once that information has been confirmed, Mr. Trietsch will provide that information to the Council.

(Beaumont District) Nothing further to report.

TCEQ A draft timeline was submitted for the State Implementation Plan to EPA. At this time we are preparing to propose the Draft State Implementation Plan that is scheduled for October 2009. We will have a year to review control strategies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After providing a brief overview, Mr. Carol Nixon encouraged everyone to go out and vote for Proposition 12.

Commissioner Patterson informed the Council that staff recommended retaining a consultant to work with TxDOT and HCTRA to establish the terms and conditions for the SH 99 Grand Parkway valuation study. The screening committee will be meeting after the TPC meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman James Patterson adjourned the meeting of the TPC at 10:35 a.m.

Tom Reid, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council

TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC)
FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON
TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA

October 26, 2007

ROLL CALL

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Baytown, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honorable Don Murray Council Member <input type="checkbox"/> Stephen DonCarlos - Alternate	City of Baytown
Galveston, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honorable Dianna D. Puccetti Council Member <input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Steve LeBlanc	City of Galveston
Houston, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honorable Pam Holm Council Member <input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Adrian Garcia – Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honorable Sue Lovell Council Member <input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Anne Clutterbuck – Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Marcotte, P.E. Director, Public Wks & Engin. <input type="checkbox"/> Raymond D. Chong, P.E. – Alternate	City of Houston
Missouri City, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Elmer Director of Public Works <input type="checkbox"/> Valerie Ruda – Alternate	City of Missouri City
Pasadena, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> Tim Tietjens Director, Traffic & Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Lee Jane Ream, P.E. – Alternate	City of Pasadena
Sugar Land, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Dennis Parmer Councilman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honorable Daniel Wong - Alternate	City of Sugar Land
Texas City, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Matthew Doyle Mayor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James McWhorter, P.E. – Alternate	City of Texas City
Brazoria County	<input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Matt Sebesta Commissioner <input type="checkbox"/> Donald Payne – Alternate	Brazoria County

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Brazoria County	<u>X</u> Honorable Tom Reid Secretary – Modesto Mundo – Alternate	Smaller Cities
Chambers County	– Honorable Don Brandon, P.E. County Engineer – Gary Nelson – Alternate	Chambers County
Fort Bend County	<u>X</u> Honorable James Patterson Chairman – Paulette Shelton – Alternate	Fort Bend County
Galveston County	– Honorable Pat Doyle County Commissioner – Mike Fitzgerald – Alternate	Galveston County
Harris County	<u>X</u> Honorable Ed Emmett County Judge – Rose Hernandez – Alternate	Harris County
Harris County	<u>X</u> Art Storey, P.E. Executive Director/County Engineer – Jackie Freeman, P.E. – Alternate	Harris County
Harris County	<u>X</u> Honorable Pat McLaughlan P.E. Councilman – Vacant – Alternate	Smaller Cities
Liberty County	<u>X</u> Honorable Norman Brown Council Member – Honorable Phil Fitzgerald – Alternate	Liberty County
Montgomery County	– Honorable Alan B. Sadler County Judge <u>X</u> Mark Mooney – Alternate	Montgomery Co.
Montgomery County	– Honorable Larry Calhoun Councilman – Honorable Jay Ross Martin - Alternate	Smaller Cities
Waller County	– Honorable Terry Harrison Commissioner – Jonathan Hopko, P.E. – Alternate	Waller County
Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority	– Frank Wilson President and CEO <u>X</u> John Sedlak – Alternate	Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Houston-Galveston Area Council	<u>X</u> Steve Howard Director, Program Operations - Jack Steele – Alternate	H-GAC
TxDOT Houston District	<u>X</u> Gary K. Trietsch, P.E. District Engineer - Delvin Dennis, P.E.	TxDOT Houston District
TxDOT Beaumont District	- John Barton, P.E. District Engineer - Phillip LuJan, P.E. - Alternate	TxDOT Beaumont District
Port of Houston Authority	- Tom Kornegay Port of Houston Authority - Joe Adams – Alternate	Other Transportation Interests

26 Total Voting Membership

18 Voting Membership Present

14 Required Quorum

**Persons Other Than Members or Their Alternates Attending the Meeting of the
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL
October 26, 2007**

Airiohuodion, Charles – TxDOT
Anderson, Jackie - TxDOT
Bednar-Wood, Carolyn - TxDOT
Bottom, Lydia - Aguirre & Fields
Brown, Stephen - METRO
Butler, Tanya - Anixter
Chong, Raymond - City of Houston
Coaling, Tom - PBSJ
Dawson, Rob - UT/Memorial
Dean, Charles – Harris County
Ficke, Ken - Harris County
Finan, Nick - City of Pearland
Freeman Jackie - HCPID
Garrison, Danielle - Fort Bend County
Hackett, Kari - H-GAC
Hebert, Rosalind - H-GAC
Hodge, Mike - Pearland
Johnson, Ashby - H-GAC
Johnson, Gabriel - TxDOT
Lee, Stephanie - H-GAC
Lowery, Edie - METRO
Mooney, Mark - Montgomery County
Murphy, Benard - Lippke, Cartwright, RBTS
Olaus, Chris - GPA
Rudick, Dale – City of Sugar Land
Sachtleben, Kim - PBS&D
Shelton, Paulett – Fort Bend Transit
Simmons, Anthony - METRO
Stafford, Steven - TxDOT - Beaumont
Stewart, Estelle - City of Houston
Stout, Bob - Stout Gov. Relations
Tomlinson, Brandy - Anixter
Villegas, Gabriella - H-GAC
Wells, Lily - E & E Inc.