

MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2008
9:30 A.M., CONFERENCE ROOM A

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Rudick, P.E. called the Technical Advisory Committee meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

A list of Committee representatives and alternates attending today's meeting is included with these Minutes as Attachment 1. There were 22 members in attendance; 16 are required for a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Billy Cooke, P.E. made a motion for adoption of the Agenda and Mr. Raymond Chong, P.E., seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Rudick, P.E. requested that the words "Public Information staff" in the second to the last paragraph on page 10 (ten) of the minutes be revised to read "Public Works staff".

Mr. Gerald Roberts, P.E. made a motion for approval of the Minutes of the October 8, 2008 meeting as amended and Mr. Gabriel Y. Johnson, P.E., seconded the motion. The Committee voted and approved the minutes as amended.

APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2009 SELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman Rudick, P.E. informed the Committee that the appointment of a TAC Nominating Committee is an annual process. Chairman Rudick, P.E. stated that appointing a nominating committee for the forthcoming year is at the discretion of the Chairman. Chairman Rudick, P.E. further stated that there were conversations of recommending Mr. Mark Loethen (City of Houston) and Mr. D. Jesse Hegemier, P.E. (Fort Bend County) to serve on the TAC Nominating Committee for 2009. Chairman Rudick, P.E. informed the Committee that Mr. Mark Loethen and Mr. D. Jesse Hegemier, P.E. agreed to serve on the TAC Nominating Committee. Chairman Rudick, P.E. called for volunteers to complete the standard slate of (3) three members to serve on the TAC Nominating Committee. Mr. Billy Cooke, P.E. (Klotz

Associates, Inc.) responded to the call for volunteers to serve on the TAC Nominating Committee. Following a call for discussion, Chairman Rudick, P.E. informed the Committee that the 2009 TAC Nominating Committee is comprised of Mr. D. Jesse Hegemier, P.E. (Fort Bend County), Mr. Mark Loethen (City of Houston), and Mr. Billy Cooke, P.E.

The Committee voted and the motion carried.

Mr. Alan Clark reminded the Committee that the TAC is different from the TPC. Staff does not receive all of the appointments to the TAC until the first of the year. The TPC makes some appointments to the TAC but this does not take place until new membership for the TPC has been appointed. The work of the 2009 TAC Nominating Committee will be reported back for action at the February meeting of the TAC. The Chairman and Vice Chairman will continue to serve through January 2009. The new membership of the TAC will begin in February.

There were no further comments or discussion.

APPROVAL OF FM 2920 ACCESS MANAGEMENT STUDY

Ms. Christy Willhite provided a brief overview of the FM 2920 Access Management Study as presented at the October meeting. Ms. Willhite informed the Committee that the FM 2920 Access Management Study reviews the roadway from US 290 to Lexington Road which is just past I-45. The study provides short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations. The FM 2920 Access Management Study has support from the City of Tomball and surrounding area chambers of commerce. Ms. Willhite concluded by requesting TAC approval of the FM 2920 Access Management Study.

Chairman Rudick, P.E. called for questions or comments.

Mr. Clark Martinson stated that there was an alternate route for bicycles through the City of Tomball that was mentioned in last month's presentation. Mr. Martinson added that there would also be a bike route on the balance of FM 2920.

Ms. Willhite responded in agreement. Ms. Willhite added that she is hoping the long-range solution is through the Medical complex for a smoother transition.

Mr. Alan Clark informed the Committee that there was discussion on the significance of approving various reports at the October TPC Meeting. Mr. Clark stated that staff is not requesting for a value judgment about the ability of engineers and consultants. Mr. Clark added that staff is requesting the TAC to consider their recommendations. Mr. Clark summarized that the requested action represents concurrence with the needs as identified in the FM 2920 Access Management Study.

Mr. Clark stated that access Management recommendations are about having complimentary land use in transportation investment. Mr. Clark stated that the TAC is not being

asked to specifically provide a funding recommendation for any project activities. The approval of the FM 2920 Access Management Study will indicate that the recommendations appear to be reasonable and prudent measures to be considered for funding decisions. Mr. Clark concluded by stating that this clarification will be articulated in the form of a written resolution for studies and reports. Mr. Clark added that a written resolution will accompany future plans, studies, and reports presented for TAC and TPC approval.

The report was concluded without questions or comments.

Mr. Clark Martinson made a motion for approval of the FM 2920 Access Management Study and Mr. James Jackson, P.E., seconded the motion.

The Committee voted and the motion carried.

Ms. Willhite informed the Committee that final copies of the FM 2920 Access Management Study will be made available to the TAC upon TPC approval of the document.

There were no further comments or discussion.

PRESENTATION OF TRANSPORTATION CONTROL MEASURES (TCMs) FOR THE 2019 STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Ms. Shelley Whitworth provided a brief overview and preliminary draft recommendations of Transportation Control Measures (TCMs) for the 2019 State Implementation Plan (SIP) from the TCM/VMEP Working Group.

Ms. Whitworth informed the Committee that SIPs are federally required for areas that do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The SIP will explain and identify how an area will attain the standard and the time period to do so. The plan must address emission contributions from mobile sources, area or consumer sources, and point or industry sources. H-GAC is responsible for developing commitments in this SIP for both the onroad and offroad mobile sources.

Ms. Whitworth informed the Committee that contributions to the formation of ozone are from nitrogen oxides and from volatile organic compounds. Modeling for our region has shown that it is primarily NO_x that is most effective in reducing ozone levels. Ms. Whitworth stated that even though the attainment date is 2019, the region must demonstrate compliance prior to June 2019.

Ms. Whitworth informed the Committee that Voluntary Mobile Emission Reduction Programs (VMEPs) are commitments in the SIP for onroad measures. Ms. Whitworth stated that VMEPs are not project-specific. They are more programmatic in nature and are identified by types of projects as opposed to specific projects. VMEPs are voluntary in nature and will be

identified within a chart in the SIP. This chart will have estimated reductions based on signed memorandums of understanding with local governments and industry. Ms. Whitworth stated that committed funding by local governments will also be included in the chart. Ms. Whitworth identified the VMEPs that are currently included in the SIP. Ms. Whitworth added that it is anticipated that the region will obtain the required 9.82 tpd of No_x emissions reductions by the 2009 deadline.

Ms. Whitworth informed the Committee that Transportation Control Measures (TCMs) are project specific. Ms. Whitworth stated that it is considered to be a legal commitment in the SIP to implement specific projects in a specific timeframe. Examples of TCMs include public transit activities, high-occupancy vehicle lanes, shared-ride services, and bicycle/pedestrian facilities. Ms. Whitworth stated it is a requirement to have TCMs in the SIP for the nonattainment areas classified as serious or above. Ms. Whitworth stated that TCMs committed in the SIP must demonstrate timely implementation.

Ms. Whitworth informed the Committee that the TCM/VMEP Working Group submitted a list of projects to be considered as TCM commitments. Ms. Whitworth stated that this list was included in the meeting materials. Ms. Whitworth further stated that the TCM/VMEP Working Group is recommending that additional consideration be given to this project list. Ms. Whitworth added that METRO is now prepared to commit some of their rail projects as TCMs. As a result, the TCM/VMEP Working Group has also recommended initiating discussions with METRO for the consideration of rail projects as TCMs.

Ms. Whitworth informed the Committee that H-GAC is working with consultants to determine what will be feasible with the VMEP projects by 2018. Ms. Whitworth stated that staff must ensure that the available funding can support these efforts because they are voluntary in nature. The proposed recommendations of the TCM/VMEP Working Group will be presented on December 4, 2008. A draft short list will be made available to the public for review. The TCM/VMEP Working Group will formulate additional recommendations based on additional information on TCMs and VMEPs provided by consultants. Recommendations will be presented to the TAC in December and January. Staff will request TPC approval of the TCM and VMEP commitments at its January meeting. Staff will request H-GAC Board approval of the short list of the Onroad Mobile Measures and the Offroad Mobile Measures.

Ms. Whitworth concluded the presentation with a timeline for TCEQ approval and submittal of the draft State Implementation Plan to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Mr. James Jackson, P.E. commented that Ms. Whitworth had provided information regarding Vanpool rankings in a previous presentation. Mr. Jackson, P.E. inquired about the Vanpool rankings in Houston compared to other cities.

Ms. Whitworth responded by saying that in reviewing the number of vanpools or participants, Houston ranks approximately two or three in the nation. However in reviewing VMT reductions, Houston is first in the nation. Ms. Whitworth added that this information is

reflective of the length in trips in our region.

Dr. Carol Lewis commented on the totals of NO_x and VOC reductions indicated in the slide presentation. Dr. Lewis requested clarification for the increase in VOCs between 2005 and 2018.

Ms. Whitworth responded by saying that it doesn't have anything to do with mobile sources. Ms. Whitworth stated the increase is resulting from area sources. There are flash emissions that TCEQ has been working very diligently with industry in trying to get a better handle on in the inventory. Ms. Whitworth added that there were a number of emissions that previously had not been reflected in the inventory.

Mr. Billy Cooke, P.E. inquired which projects in the list of 16 are the four projects that are ready to move forward.

Ms. Whitworth identified the Brazos Transit District/Woodlands Town Center, Greater Southeast Management District/The Holman Street Project, Greater Southeast Management District (Elgin, Ennis, and Alabama Streets), and the Uptown Houston District Westheimer Projects. Ms. Whitworth added that METRO anticipates that rail projects will be implemented prior to the designated timeframe.

Mr. Alan Clark requested clarification that the presentation given was about TCMs. Ms. Clark stated that a presentation on the VMEP Program will be provided at a future meeting.

Ms. Whitworth confirmed that the presentation only covered TCMs. Ms. Whitworth added that consultants are still evaluating them based on the new inventory for 2018.

Mr. Clark requested a brief description of what is included in the VMEP Program to provide justification for the omission of intersection improvements in the short list.

Ms. Whitworth informed the Committee that measures that are oftentimes prohibited from making specific commitments are included in the VMEP Program. Those measures would include the Regional Traffic Signal Systems, Commercial Marine Program, Clean Vehicles Program, Commute Solutions Program, etc.

Mr. Raymond Chong, P.E. commented that the City of Houston did not commit to the three bikeway projects. Mr. Chong, P.E. inquired about the next opportunity to commit to bikeway projects.

Ms. Whitworth responded by saying that upon completion of the SIP, staff must begin efforts on the next SIP for the current ozone standard of 75 ppb. The timeline has not been determined but it is conceivable that it may be close to the timeline for attainment for this ozone standard.

Ms. Whitworth informed the Committee that the VMEPs discussed in the presentation are also included in the 2008 Air Quality Initiatives Publication. Copies of the 2008 Air Quality Initiatives Publication were made available for review to the Committee.

The presentation concluded without further comment or questions.

REPORT ON STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

H-GAC Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP reported that a meeting with TxDOT Administration and other MPOs in the State was held in Austin on November 10, 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a timeline for the next TIP submittal. State and federal financial issues have dictated the need to create a timeline that will allow for the development of regional priorities for the TIP document. Mr. Johnson, AICP presented a draft timeline that would include developing regional priorities between now and May of 2009.

Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP reported that following the close of the legislative session, it is anticipated that TxDOT will submit a draft Unified Transportation Program target level of funding. At that time, there will be more clarification on Proposition 12, a federal stimulus package, the next federal rescission and its impact to our region, and the availability of a Local Option Tax.

Mr. Alan Clark reported that there is very little funding to add additional projects to the TIP or cover existing projects. It would be useful to identify specific projects that would be ready to go and the priorities for our region. It is hopeful that TxDOT will be able to identify funding targets in order to begin the process of reviewing project lists. After that time, public outreach efforts would begin followed by TPC approval and an additional 45-day statewide public outreach period.

Mr. Alan Clark reported that the proposed schedule is somewhat challenging but much more realistic. The next TIP will be dramatically smaller than the last one because the larger funded projects included in the last TIP will be phased over a number of years into the future. Mr. Clark also reported that it has taken 2-3 years for reauthorization bills to be developed once the old authorization bill expires.

Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP reported that H-GAC will begin their Federal Certification Review. This review process takes place every 4 (four) years with the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. H-GAC receives federal funding and is subject to this review to ensure that the agency is engaged in a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process. At the end of the process, the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration will submit a list of findings resulting in a final report within 6 (six) months.

Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP also reported that the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration will host a public meeting on December 1, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. as part of the Federal Certification Review process. Interviews with elected officials will also be held to evaluate H-GAC's planning efforts.

Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP reported that H-GAC hosted a public meeting at its offices on TIP amendments on November 5, 2008. There were no attendees.

Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP reported that H-GAC will be hosting its annual Regional Safety Conference on November 17-19, 2008 at the Marriott Hotel, Hobby Airport. For more information, refer to the Transportation website.

TxDOT Mr. Gabriel Y. Johnson, P.E. reported that TxDOT is hosting its annual Transportation Forum in Austin, Texas on January 5-7, 2009. For more information, access the TxDOT website under special events website.

CITY OF GALVESTON

There was no status report from the City of Galveston.

METRO There was no status report from METRO.

FORT BEND COUNTY

Ms. Paulette Shelton reported that the Texas Medical Center Commuter Services sold approximately \$48,000 dollars in tickets during the first week of operations. The service has continued to grow by approximately 200 trips per week. The first schedule change will be implemented on December 1, 2008.

RAQPC There was no status report from RAQPC.

HCTRA There was no status report from HCTRA.

FBCTRA There was no status report from FBCTRA.

BCTRA There was no status report from the BCTRA.

TCEQ There was no status report from TCEQ.

FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Alan Clark provided a brief overview of the actions of the TPC at its October meeting. Mr. Clark reported that the Regional Commuter Rail Connectivity Study was tabled. Several concerns about the report were raised. Mr. Clark stated that staff is currently addressing

those concerns. As a result, the Regional Commuter Rail Connectivity Study will be presented again to the TAC in the near future.

Mr. Gabriel Y. Johnson, P.E. commented that the TIP Amendment for FM 5865 received conditional approval subject to the public meeting held on November 5, 2008. Mr. Johnson, P.E. recommended that a status report be made to the TPC regarding the public meeting.

Mr. Clark responded by saying that a second mailout for the TPC will take place on November 14, 2008. Mr. Clark stated that background information with the status of the TIP amendment for FM 5865 will be included in the mailout.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Rudick, P.E. announced that the next TPC meeting will be held on November 21, 2008 and that the next TAC meeting will be held on December 10, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Rudick, P.E. adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 10:17 a.m.

Marlene Gafrick, Vice Chairman
Technical Advisory Committee

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2008 MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

11/12/2008 at 9:30 a.m.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	<u>ALTERNATE</u>	<u>PRESENT *</u>
Don Brandon, P.E.	Chambers County	Gary Nelson	—
Kelly Carpenter	City of Baytown	Fred Pack	X
Don Carroll	City of Texas City	Doug Kneupper	—
Raymond Chong, P.E.	City of Houston	Jeffrey Weatherford, P.E.	X
Billy Cooke, P.E.	Citizen & Business Interests	Rebecca Jasso	X
Maureen Crocker	Intermodal Interests	Jack Whaley, P.E.	X
David Crossley	Environmental/Planning	Karl Pepple	—
Perri D'Armond	Citizen & Business Interests	Joe Esch	X
David Douglas	Liberty County	Jimmy Sterling	—
Scott Elmer, P.E.	City of Missouri City	Valerie Ruda	—
Mike Fitzgerald, P.E.	Galveston County	Rod Shaut	—
Marlene Gafrick <i>Vice Chair</i>	Environmental/Planning	Mike Kramer	A
Regina Garcia	Intermodal Interests - Bike/Ped.	Clark Martinson	A
Catarina Gonzales Cron	Environmental/Planning	Dana Blume	—
Jesse Hegemier, P.E.	Fort Bend County	Ron Drachenberg, P.E.	X
Robert Heineman	Smaller Cities	(Vacant)	—
Mike Hodge, P.E.	Smaller Cities	Trent Epperson	A
James Jackson, P.E.	Intermodal Interests - <i>Ports</i>	Steve DeWolf, P.E.	X
Gabriel Johnson, P.E.	TxDOT, Houston District	(Vacant)	X

Jeff Johnson, P.E.	Montgomery County	Ross McCall	___
(Vacant)	Waller County	(Vacant)	___
Carol Lewis	Environmental/Planning	Mark Loethen	X
Phillip Lujan, P.E.	TxDOT Beaumont District	Steve Stafford, P.E.	X
Andy Mao, P.E.	Harris County	Charles Dean, P.E.	X
(Vacant)	City of Galveston	Lynn Spencer	A
Lee Jane Ream, P.E.	City of Pasadena	Sarah Benavides	___
A.J. "Pete" Reixach, Jr.	Intermodal Interests	Diane Falcioni	___
Gerald Roberts, P.E.	Brazoria County	Kevin Sherrod	X
Dale Rudick, P.E. <i>Chairman</i>	City of Sugar Land	Mike Leech	X
Kimberly Slaughter	METRO	Larry Badon	X
Paulette Shelton	Rural Transit	Vastine Olier	X
Jeff Taebel	Environmental/Planning	Steve Howard	X
John Tyler, P.E.	Intermodal Interests	David Gornet	X
Bill Zrioka	Intermodal Interests - <i>Airports</i>	Carlos Ortiz	X

* Attendance of the Representative is marked with an "X" in the last column; Attendance of the Alternate is marked with an "A."

34 Total Voting Membership

22 Voting Membership Present

16 Required Quorum