

**MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2009**  
**9:30 A.M., CONFERENCE ROOM A**

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Rudick, P.E., called the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

A list of Committee representatives and alternates attending today's meeting is included with these Minutes as Attachment 1. There were 24 members in attendance; 16 are required for a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Marlene Gafrick made a motion for adoption of the Agenda and Mr. Gabriel Y. Johnson, P.E., seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Andy Mao, P.E., made a motion for approval of the Minutes of the November 12, 2008 meeting and Mr. David Crossley seconded the motion. The Committee voted and approved the minutes.

APPROVAL OF TRANSPORTATION CONTROL MEASURES (TCMS) AND VOLUNTARY MOBILE EMISSION PROGRAMS (VMEPS) REDUCTIONS FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON-BRAZORIA STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (SIP)

Ms. Shelley Whitworth provided a presentation on the Transportation Control Measures (TCMs) and Voluntary Mobile Emissions Programs (VMEPs) for the 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Demonstration. The TCM/VMEP Development Working Group recommended that the TCM project list be included in the meeting materials. The list includes projects that are ready for contract letting and those already under construction. The attainment deadline for the SIP is June 2019. Any commitments that are made will be legally enforceable.

Since the region was recently reclassified as severe non-attainment for ozone, it is necessary to submit new TCMs for inclusion in the SIP. TCMs are legal commitments and are

project specific. They must reduce transportation related emissions. A total of six (6) projects are recommended. Pedestrian projects were identified and the remaining three (3) were bikeway projects. Project sponsors and TxDOT have all agreed that these projects are ready to go to construction and will be completed in committed timely fashion.

The VMEP Program has on-road and off-road reduction commitments. Staff only recommended on-road reductions for consideration by the Committee. The off-road reductions commitments will be submitted by other organizations or entities. VMEPs are incentive driven because they are voluntary measures that local and state governments are prohibited from regulating. They are not project specific; they are program-oriented. The recommended on-road VMEPs is 3.99 tpd (tons per day). Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Funds (CMAQ) are limited to on-road commitments. Under the Commute Solutions Program, Vanpool expansion, additional transit and rail expansion, alternative commuting methods, etc. were recommended for consideration.

Ms. Whitworth concluded the presentation by requesting approval of the recommendations for Transportation Control Measures (TCMs) and Voluntary Mobile Emissions Programs (VMEPs) for the 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Demonstration.

TAC members requested clarification on the project lists, project descriptions, funding commitments, obligations for the next TIP, and the information in the meeting materials and slide presentation. TAC members also requested that project descriptions in the recommendations be renamed. Questions and answers and a detailed discussion with comments followed.

Mr. Gabriel Y. Johnson, P.E. made a motion to commit to 3.99 tpd with flexibility within the program to have an achievement.

Vice Chairman Gafrick addressed Chairman Rudick, P.E. to offer an amendment to the motion.

Vice Chairman Gafrick recommended that the headings be revised to add "Alternative Commuting Strategies" instead of Commute Solutions. Vice Chairman Gafrick also recommended that "Traffic Signalization" be revised to "Corridor Improvements".

Mr. Gabriel Y. Johnson, P.E., amended his motion. His revised motion recommended a commitment to the 3.99 tpd with flexibility within the program in order to ensure attainment of that commitment and recommended revisions to the category headings as requested by Vice Chairman Gafrick. Ms. Gafrick seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

Mr. Tim Lomax provided a presentation of the 2030 Committee's report and recommendations on a mobility analysis of the Houston-Galveston region. Mr. Lomax informed the Committee that the report was still in draft form and provided the website for further review of the report (<http://texas2030committee.tamu.edu/>). Mr. Lomax identified the 2030 Committee members, key questions, and committee goals. A detailed overview of the scope, total investment needed per year for mobility and maintenance was also presented.

The 2030 Committee recommendations include the prevention of worsening congestion and broadening the ability of urban regions to raise revenue to increase mobility if locally desired without reducing state funding for mobility.

The presentation was concluded by questions and answers with comments.

#### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Pat Waskowiak provided a presentation on the Texas Legislative session and ongoing federal activities. It is anticipated that transportation issues will be a big part of the current state legislative session. Ms. Waskowiak identified and provided a brief overview of the bills filed by Senator John Carona, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation & Homeland Security, Representative David McQuade Leibowitz of San Antonio, and Senator Robert Nichols. Staff will be tracking these bills and others during this legislative session as they are relevant to transportation issues.

The State will be facing a reduction in funds coming from the Highway Trust Fund and a reduction in state revenues given the economic downturn. Legislators will in turn have to review other sources of revenues for transportation funding. The Comptroller released a 2-year forecast that shows that state revenue is down by approximately \$9 million dollars. This will be an important factor in the session.

Ms. Waskowiak informed the Committee that the Legislative Committee will convene at 2:00 p.m. on January 20, 2008 at H-GAC offices. Representatives from the North Central Texas Council of Government (NCTCOG) will be discussing a local funding option that will utilize local funding for commuter rail and provide revenue for other transportation investments.

Chairman Rudick, P.E., suggested that H-GAC request the legislative agendas relating to transportation approved by the governing bodies of agencies represented on the Committee.

Ms. Waskowiak reported that federal activities include ongoing discussions about the economic stimulus package. TxDOT has requested that metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) across the state coordinate various project lists developed by local governments and the State. TxDOT has requested that MPOs or the TPC review those lists and develop a strategy for prioritizing them. This list must include roadway and transit projects. The deadline for submitting the project list to TxDOT is the close of business January 16, 2009.

The economic stimulus package is intended to include a variety of different infrastructure projects including computers in schools, utilities, sewer improvement, etc. The total infrastructure package for the state is approximately \$3.6 billion dollars. An estimated \$20 billion dollars nationwide may be allocated for transportation infrastructure including roadways and transit.

The presentation was concluded by questions and answers with comments.

#### PRESENTATION ON TEXAS CITY CONNECT SERVICE

Mr. Alan Rodenstein provided a presentation on the Texas City Connect Service providing a detailed overview of the services which included its background, current routes, operating costs, ridership, and new connect services for calendar year 2009.

The Texas City Connect Service began transit services in October 2008 and was designed to meet the needs of Galveston and Brazoria counties. Ridership levels continue to increase each month. This service was already at 50% of its desired level of annual ridership by the end of November. As of January 2009 with paid fares, ridership was 10% higher than the levels reported in November. A 6 (six) month evaluation will be performed in April to assess the success of the service.

Expected Connect Service for calendar year 2009 will include Park and Ride Commuter Service between the Mall of the Mainland and the Galveston Park and Ride. This service is a joint effort between Texas City Connect and Island Transit.

The presentation was concluded with brief questions and answers.

#### REPORT ON STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

H-GAC            There was no status report from H-GAC.

TxDOT           Mr. Gabriel Y. Johnson, P.E., reported that TIP amendments have been sent to TxDOT Administration in Austin. A meeting was held with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to discuss various issues including approval of the STIP for November submission and the stimulus package.

#### CITY OF GALVESTON

There was no status report from the City of Galveston.

METRO           Ms. Kimberly Slaughter reported on status of the METRO rail projects. The North and Southeast Corridor Rail Projects have been competing for federal

dollars. FTA is requiring METRO to do a risk assessment and financial capacity analysis. This analysis will be completed by the end of April. Upon completion of the assessments, FTA will allow METRO to move forward into final design and construction on those projects.

**FORT BEND COUNTY**

There was no status report from Fort Bend County.

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**

No future business was reported.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Pat Waskowiak announced that there will be a Legislative Committee Meeting on January 20, 2009 at H-GAC offices at 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Rudick, P.E., announced that the next Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting will be held on January 23, 2009 and that the next TAC meeting will be held on February 18, 2009.

Chairman Rudick, P.E. also announced that the TIP Subcommittee will meet at 11:30 a.m. following the TAC meeting.

Mr. David Crossley announced that Houston Tomorrow will be hosting a presentation by Mr. Peter Newman. Mr. Newman is the leading researcher on reducing automobile dependency in metropolitan regions. Mr. Newman will be presenting at the United Way on January 22, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. There is no registration fee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Rudick, P.E. adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 11:27 a.m.

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Marlene Gafrick, Vice Chairman  
Technical Advisory Committee

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2009 MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

**01/14/09 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.	—
Billy Cooke, P.E.	Citizen & Business Interests	Rebecca Jasso	A
Maureen Crocker	Intermodal Interests	Jack Whaley, P.E.	A
David Crossley	Environmental/Planning	Karl Pepple	X
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	A
Mike Fitzgerald, P.E.	Galveston County	Rod Shaut	—
Marlene Gafrick <i>Vice Chair</i>	Environmental/Planning	Mike Kramer	X
Regina Garcia	Intermodal Interests - Bike/Ped.	Clark Martinson	A
Catarina Gonzales Cron	Environmental/Planning	Dana Blume	X
Jesse Hegemier, P.E.	Fort Bend County	Ron Drachenberg, P.E.	—
Robert Heineman	Smaller Cities	(Vacant)	X
Mike Hodge, P.E.	Smaller Cities	Trent Epperson	A
James Jackson, P.E.	Intermodal Interests - <i>Ports</i>	Steve DeWolf, P.E.	—
Gabriel Johnson, P.E.	TxDOT, Houston District	(Vacant)	X

Jeff Johnson, P.E.	Montgomery County	Ross McCall	A
(Vacant)	Waller County	(Vacant)	—
Carol Lewis	Environmental/Planning	Mark Loethen	A
Phillip Lujan, P.E.	TxDOT Beaumont District	Steve Stafford, P.E.	A
Andy Mao, P.E.	Harris County	Charles Dean, P.E.	X
(Vacant)	City of Galveston	Lynn Spencer	—
(Vacant)	City of Pasadena	Sarah Benavides	A
A.J. "Pete" Reixach, Jr.	Intermodal Interests	Diane Falcioni	X
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	—
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

24 Voting Membership Present

16 Required Quorum