

MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2009
9:30 A.M., CONFERENCE ROOM A

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Rudick, P.E., called the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

A list of Committee representatives and alternates attending today's meeting is included with these Minutes as Attachment 1. There were 25 members in attendance; 16 are required for a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Vice Chairman 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 January 14, 2009 meeting and Mr. Scott Elmer, P.E. seconded the motion.

Ms. Paulette Shelton addressed the Chair in noting corrections to the minutes. Ms. Shelton stated that the date should be revised to reflect that the Committee is approving minutes for the November 12, 2008 meeting. Ms. Shelton also noted an incomplete sentence in the section of the minutes titled "Approval of Transportation Control Measures (TCMs) and Voluntary Mobile Emission Programs (VMEPs) Reductions for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria State Implementation Plan (SIP).

The Committee voted and approved the minutes as amended.

ELECTION OF 2009 TAC OFFICERS

Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP informed the Committee that the TAC Nominating Committee consists of Mark Loethen (City of Houston), D. Jesse Hegemier (Fort Bend County), and Billy Cooke, P.E. (Klotz Associates). The TAC Nominating Committee convened on February 12, 2009 to produce a slate of officers for TAC approval and recommended Ms. Marlene Gafrick

(City of Houston) for Chairman and Mr. Scott Elmer, P.E. (City of Missouri City) for Vice Chairman for 2009.

The Committee voted and approved Ms. Marlene Gafrick as Chairman and Mr. Scott Elmer, P.E. for 2009.

Chairman Marlene Gafrick conducted the remainder of the meeting.

2009-2010 TAC SUBCOMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP informed the Committee that the meeting materials consisted of background information for the following TAC Subcommittees.

1. Operations Task Force
2. Pedestrian & Bicycle Subcommittee
3. Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee
4. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Subcommittee
5. TCM\VMEP Development Working Group
6. Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Implementation Subcommittee
7. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee

Mr. Johnson, AICP encouraged the Committee to review the information provided for each subcommittee for accuracy. TAC Subcommittee recommendations will be presented for approval at the March 18, 2009 TAC meeting.

A discussion later followed regarding voting membership for the TDM Implementation and TIP Subcommittees. Further clarification on voting membership for these committees will be provided at the March TAC meeting. The presentation was concluded by brief questions and answers with comments.

UPDATE ON THE STIMULUS PACKAGE AND REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP provided a presentation on the Stimulus package and reauthorization. The American Recovery for Reinvestment Act was signed on February 17, 2009. The Conference Bill yielded \$27.5 billion for highway and bridge construction, \$8.4 billion for transit, \$9.3 billion for rail, and \$1.3 billion for aviation for the entire country. Funding allocated for highway and bridge construction, transit, and rail will not require match. A 20% match is still required for aviation.

It is anticipated that Texas will receive \$2.25 billion in highway and bridge funding. Approximately \$1.5 billion will go to TxDOT for the project selection process. The Houston region is anticipated to receive approximately \$140 million dollars. Staff is in discussions with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and TxDOT Austin about these funds because some of the language in the Conference bill was not clear. There is also a discrepancy between

the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) about how the money is split per the law. Clarification by the FHWA on the matter is anticipated.

A draft list of projects has been produced. Staff anticipates final answers from FHWA and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) within the next (10) ten days. The law stipulates that once the bill has been signed, FHWA and FTA will have (10) ten days to send notification to the states disclosing how much money they will receive and how it will be suballocated. A draft project list will be released in advance of the February Transportation Policy Council meeting. This list consists of projects that are already in the TIP. Some of the projects included in the list will require Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments.

TxDOT must obligate 50% of the money within the first 120 days. This time clock will start on the day that notification about the apportionment from FHWA and FTA is received. More information will be provided as staff receives more clarification. Once the first 50% is obligated within the 120 day time frame, the remaining 50% has to be obligated within (1) one year. After that time, the money must be expended and construction must be completed within (3) three years. Approximately 100% of the \$140 million dollars that the Houston-Galveston region is anticipated to receive must be obligated within (1) one year or it will be returned to TxDOT to be expended anywhere in the state. If this money is not expended by TxDOT, it will be returned to FHWA to be expended anywhere in country. Mr. Johnson, AICP identified the criteria used during the project selection process that will ensure that projects included in the list are ready to go.

Texas is facing a rescission of nearly \$1 billion dollars. The current transportation bill is due to run out in September 2009 but there is a rescission written into the existing bill. Attempts have been made to have the rescission language pulled out of the existing transportation bill but the motion failed. Texas will receive \$2.25 billion dollars but \$1 billion dollars will have to be returned if the rescission money isn't remedied from other areas of the federal budget

The presentation was concluded by questions and answers with comments.

REGIONAL AVIATION SYSTEM PLAN

Mr. Jerry Bobo provided a presentation on the Regional Aviation System Plan (RASP). H-GAC completed the first Regional Aviation System Plan in 1973 and a series of updates thereafter. The current RASP includes (13) thirteen general aviation airports, (8) eight reliever airports, and (2) two commercial airports. RASP is a 2-year project with the general purpose of providing a system of public-use airports to meet the region's aviation needs. A steering committee was formed and approved by the H-GAC Board of Directors. Representation on the committee includes (13) General aviation airports, Greater Houston Partnership, TxDOT Aviation Division, FAA Southwest Region, etc.

Mr. Bobo identified the RASP goals, issues, and provided a brief overview of the Phase 1 and 2 Work Plans, and Phase 1 and 2 Schedules.

The presentation was concluded without comments or questions.

REPORT ON STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

H-GAC Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP reported that H-GAC is hosting a Liberty County Transit Plan Open House on February 19, 2009 and March 10, 2009. Times and locations are listed on the flyer included in the meeting materials.

Mr. Johnson, AICP also reported that H-GAC hosted a public meeting at Labay Middle School on February 10, 2009 for the proposed grade overpass at SH 6 and FM 529. Approximately 150 to 200 people were in attendance. Comments were received with the majority being in opposition to the overpass.

TxDOT Mr. Gabriel Y. Johnson, P.E., reported that the Texas Transportation Commission will act on the stimulus projects on February 26, 2009. Further discussions will take place regarding the stimulus projects, TIP, STIP, etc.

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 Tuesday, February 25, 2009 is "Transit Day at the Capital" in Austin. Meetings are scheduled with representatives from Fort Bend County and transit operators from across the state.

FORT BEND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Ms. Perri D'Armond reported that meetings regarding the census have been held at H-GAC offices to review the census data by county. Future meetings will be held on Tuesdays and Fridays. Additional help is needed for this effort.

HARRIS COUNTY

Mr. Ken Fickes reported that Harris County Rides was merged into the Transit Services Department in December 2008. A new Park and Ride service will begin operations in Pasadena on April 6, 2009.

GRAND PARKWAY ASSOCIATION

Mr. David Gornet reported that FHWA signed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Segment G which unites IH 45 North and US 59 North in January 2010. The Notice of Availability was published on February 6, 2009 in

the Federal and State Registers. Access the Grand Parkway website to review the document and to submit comments. The comment period for the FEIS closes on March 16, 2009.

- 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

Mr. David Crossley announced that Rice University is hosting a conference on “Cities and the Emerging Metropolis” on March 2-4, 2009.

Chairman Gafrick announced that the next Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting will be held on February 27, 2009 and that the next TAC meeting will be held on March 18, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gafrick adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 10:37 a.m.

Scott Elmer, P.E., Vice Chairman
Technical Advisory Committee

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2009 MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

02/18/09 at 9:30 a.m.

| <u>MEMBER</u> | <u>REPRESENTING</u> | <u>ALTERNATE</u> | <u>PRESENT *</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Sarah Benavides | City of Pasadena | (Vacant) | X |
| Don Brandon, P.E. | Chambers County | David Abernathy | ___ |
| Kelly Carpenter | City of Baytown | Dick Carter | X |
| Don Carroll | City of Texas City | (Vacant) | X |
| Raymond Chong, P.E. | City of Houston | Jeffrey Weatherford, P.E. | ___ |
| Maureen Crocker | Intermodal Interests | Jack Whaley, P.E. | ___ |
| Catarina Gonzales Cron | Environmental/Planning | Billy Cooke, P.E. | ___ |
| David Crossley | Citizen & Business Interests | Christof Spieler | X |
| Perri D'Armond | Citizen & Business Interests | Emily Braswell | X |
| David Douglas | Liberty County | Jimmy Sterling | ___ |
| Scott Elmer, P.E. | City of Missouri City | Valerie Ruda | X |
| Ken Fickes | Urban Transit | John Saavedra | X |
| Mike Fitzgerald, P.E. | Galveston County | Rod Shaut | ___ |
| Marlene Gafrick | Environmental/Planning | Carol Lewis | X |
| D. Jesse Hegemier, P.E. | Fort Bend County | Ron Drachenberg, P.E. | X |
| Robert Heineman | Smaller Cities | Erwin Burden | ___ |
| James Jackson, P.E. | Intermodal Interests - <i>Ports</i> | Steve DeWolf, P.E. | A |
| Gabriel Johnson, P.E. | TxDOT, Houston District | Elvia R. Cardinal, P.E. | X |

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| Jeff Johnson, P.E. | Montgomery County | Ross McCall, EIT | A |
| Mark Loethen | Environmental/Planning | Karl Pepple | X |
| Phillip Lujan, P.E. | TxDOT Beaumont District | Steve Stafford, P.E. | ___ |
| Andy Mao, P.E. | Harris County | Charles Dean, P.E. | X |
| Clark Martinson | Intermodal Interests - Bike/Ped. | Regina Garcia | X |
| Mayor Toni Randall | Smaller Cities | Mike Hodge, P.E. | X |
| A.J. "Pete" Reixach, Jr. | Intermodal Interests | Mike Wilson | ___ |
| Gerald Roberts, P.E. | Brazoria County | Kevin Sherrod | X |
| Dale Rudick, P.E. | City of Sugar Land | Pat Walsh | X |
| Yancy Scott, P.E. | Waller County | Orval Rhoads, P.E. | X |
| Paulette Shelton | Rural Transit | Greg Smith | X |
| Kimberly Slaughter | METRO | Larry Badon | A |
| Jeff Taebel | Environmental/Planning | Patricia Knudson Joiner | X |
| John Tyler, P.E. | Intermodal Interests | David Gornet | A |
| Michael Worthy | City of Galveston | Rick Beverlin | X |
| Bill Zrioka | Intermodal Interests - <i>Airports</i> | Joe Esch | 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

25 Voting Membership Present

16 Required Quorum