

MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2009

9:30 A.M., CONFERENCE ROOM A

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Garfrick, called the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

A list of Committee representatives and alternates attending today's meeting is included with these Minutes as Attachment 1. There were 26 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 Ms. Perri D'Armond, seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. David Crossley made a motion for approval of the Minutes of the February 18, 2009 meeting and Ms. Paulette Shelton seconded the motion. The Committee voted and approved the minutes.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2009-2010 TAC SUBCOMMITTEES

Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP informed the Committee that the TAC Nominating Committee consisting of Mr. Mark Loethen (City of Houston), Mr. Jesse Hegemier (Fort Bend County), and Mr. Billy Cooke, P.E. (Klotz Associates) met on March 5, 2009 to select 2009 memberships for the TAC Subcommittees. The TAC Subcommittees consist of the Operations Task Force, Pedestrian and Bicycle Subcommittee, Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee (RTCS), Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Subcommittee, TCM/VMPEP Development Working Group, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee, and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Implementation Subcommittee. Mr. Johnson, AICP called attention to the information included in the meeting packets to identify recommendations for these committees as submitted. Mr. Johnson, AICP also noted changes to the recommendations following the last mailing. Comments with questions and answers concluded the request for approval of the recommendations for 2009 membership for the TAC Subcommittees.

Chairman Gafrick requested that any nominations for alternates on the TAC Subcommittees be communicated during the meeting in order to proceed with final approval of the recommendations at this meeting. Chairman Gafrick also requested that a nomination form be completed for the nominations communicated and submitted to staff for proper documentation. Chairman Gafrick accepted nominations for alternates one committee at a time and in the order outlined in the meeting packets.

Mr. Billy Cooke, P.E. made a motion to approve recommendations for the 2009-2010 TAC Subcommittees with changes and Mr. Gabriel Y. Johnson, P.E. seconded the motion. The Committee voted and approved the recommendations for the 2009-2010 TAC Subcommittees with changes.

2010-2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Mr. Jerry Bobo provided a brief presentation of the 2009-2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and its purpose. Mr. Bobo informed the Committee that the purpose of the UPWP is to describe the Federally funded planning activities in the eight-county region. The UPWP also defines how the (8) eight planning factors from SAFETEA-LU are addressed. It is a (2) two year program conducted over the next two years beginning October 1, 2009 through September 2011. The funding level will be approximately the same as last year's funding level of \$7.5 million per year plus carryover of \$2-\$3 million due to some unforeseen delays in consultant activities, etc.

Mr. Bobo identified in detail the structure and schedule of the UPWP. The structure of the UPWP is determined by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and the Texas Metropolitan Planning Organization (TEMPO). Various agencies have received letters from H-GAC requesting locally funded planning activities accordingly to include in the UPWP. The deadline for new projects is the first week in April. The Draft UPWP will be presented to the TAC at its May meeting. A public meeting will be held after that time. The public comment period will close on June 7, 2009. Final approval of the UPWP will be requested at the June TAC meeting. For review of the current UPWP, please access the website, http://www.h-gac.com/taq/plans_programs/ under "Plans and Programs." All amendments to date through amendment 27 are also posted for review.

Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP added that salaries and overhead are included in the \$7.5 million per year. Mr. Johnson, AICP requested that Mr. Bobo explain why the UPWP development is on an accelerated schedule.

Mr. Bobo stated that we are on an accelerated schedule so as to include an additional 30 days to make changes as a result of any unscheduled developments. The presentation was concluded by comments with questions and answers.

STATUS UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2008-2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AND STIMULUS FUNDING

Ms. Pat Waskowiak provided a status update on implementation of the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Stimulus Funding. Ms. Waskowiak referred to the information included in the meeting packet and PowerPoint presentation while discussing implementation of the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Approximately \$1.7 billion was programmed for projects in FY '08. There was a significant delay in the number of projects that went to contract. Projects in the 2008-2011 TIP were provided into four (4) program groupings. Program I consists of Added Capacity/Mobility roadway projects. Program II consists of Air Quality and Pedestrian/Bicycle projects. Program III consists of traffic operations, intersection improvements, signalization projects, and other traffic monitoring projects. Program IV consists of Transit and Liveable Centers. Ms. Waskowiak noted that the Transit category in Program IV is misleading due to the way the transit projects were programmed. There are no significant delays in the Transit category.

The State and Federal aid projects are an area of concern. There were significant delays in the mobility projects. Out of the projects that were programmed, only 30% were advanced. The state transportation funding shortfall impacted TxDOT's ability to let projects in 2008. As a result, there is a significant backlog of projects most of which are mobility projects. Projects that were not let in 2008 will be carried over into later years of the TIP.

The Economic Stimulus Package or American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding will be used to get specific projects included in the backlog to contract letting. The Texas Transportation Commission selected four projects in the Houston region for funding out of the state portion of ARRA funds. The \$150 million of ARRA MPO Sub-allocation funded projects were selected by the TPC at its February 27, 2009 meeting.

Staff is currently working with TxDOT and local government sponsors to determine project status, current cost estimates, etc. Staff will also utilize letting authority for FY '09 to prevent losing those dollars. Ready to go projects on the TIP side will be combined with the projects on the stimulus side to get them to contract. Projects on the stimulus side will face specific deadlines. Projects funded through the ARRA MPO sub-allocated funds must be obligated within one year. Projects funded through TxDOT's portion of ARRA dollars have different deadlines. Half of the TxDOT ARRA funds must be obligated within 120 days the remainder must be obligated within one year.

The presentation was concluded by comments with questions and answers.

STATUS UPDATE ON THE CITY OF HOUSTON MOBILITY PLANNING – PHASE I

Mr. Raymond Chong, P.E., PTOE provided a status update on Phase I of the City of Houston's Mobility Plan. Mr. Chong called attention to PowerPoint presentation in updating the Committee on the City of Houston's Mobility Plan. The City of Houston Mobility Plan is an

initiative of Mayor Bill White to promote holistic transportation planning for the City of Houston. The Mobility Plan is being spearheaded by the City Planning Commission. Mr. Chong provided a detailed overview of the components of Phase I of the City of Houston Mobility Plan.

Phase I of the Mobility Plan produced the following major conclusions:

1. City of Houston will add an additional 3 million people over the next 26 years. Of that 3 million, 1 million will be working in the City of Houston and adjacent cities.
2. There will be a job-housing imbalance in the city which will cause an increase in work trips. To date, an inbound/outbound commute is approximately 50 minutes. By year 2035, it is anticipated that the average commute will be 175 minutes - a 250 percent increase.

Mr. Chong identified potential solutions to mitigate the projected increased congestion and identified the next steps in Phase II of the City of Houston of Houston's Mobility. The presentation was concluded by comments with questions and answers.

REPORT ON STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

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

TxDOT There was no status report from TxDOT.

CITY OF GALVESTON

There was no status report from the City of Galveston.

METRO There was no status report from METRO.

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 reported that there will be a discussion of legislative activities at the upcoming Transportation Policy Council meeting. There are many transportation related bills that should be watched closely.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP announced that H-GAC will be hosting a series of public meetings on Transportation impacts of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, Update on Grand Parkway Segments E, F, and G., and the status of area roadway and transit projects. These meetings will be take place on March 24-26, 2009. Please refer to the handout included in the meeting packet for time and locations.

Chairman Gafrick announced that the next Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting will be held on March 27, 2009 and that the next TAC meeting will be held on April 15, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gafrick adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 11:00 a.m.

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

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2009 MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

03/18/09 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, AICP	City of Baytown	Dick Carter	X
Don Carroll	City of Texas City	(Vacant)	___
Raymond Chong, P.E.	City of Houston	Jeffrey Weatherford, P.E.	X
Maureen Crocker	Intermodal Interests	Jack Whaley, P.E.	A
Catarina Gonzales Cron	Environmental/Planning	Billy Cooke, P.E.	X
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

Jeff Johnson, P.E.	Montgomery County	Ross McCall, EIT	—
Mark Loethen	Environmental/Planning	Karl Pepple	X
Phillip Lujan, P.E.	TxDOT Beaumont District	Steve Stafford, P.E.	X
Andy Mao, P.E.	Harris County	Charles Dean, P.E.	A
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	X
Gerald Roberts, P.E.	Brazoria County	Kevin Sherrod	X
Dale Rudick, P.E.	City of Sugar Land	Pat Walsh	A
Yancy Scott, P.E.	Waller County	Orval Rhoads, P.E.	A
Paulette Shelton	Rural Transit	Greg Smith	X
Kimberly Slaughter	METRO	Larry Badon	—
Jeff Taebel, FAICP	Environmental/Planning	Patricia Knudson Joiner	X
John Tyler, P.E.	Intermodal Interests	David Gornet	X
Michael Worthy	City of Galveston	Rick Beverlin	A
Bill Zrioka	Intermodal Interests - <i>Airports</i>	Joe Esch	—

* 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

26 Voting Membership Present

16 Required Quorum