

MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 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 24 members in attendance; 16 are required for a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Dale Rudick, P.E. made a motion for adoption of the Agenda and Mr. David Gornet seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Gerald Roberts, P.E. made a motion for approval of the Minutes of the April 15, 2009 meeting and Mr. Billy Cooke, P.E. seconded the motion. The Committee voted and approved the minutes.

REVISION OF TRANSIT AGENCY CATEGORY FOR THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP informed the Committee of an oversight made by staff on the initial approval of the membership for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Subcommittee at the March TAC Meeting. Mr. Johnson, AICP reported that there were two (2) voting members for METRO in error. Transit representation should reflect one (1) voting member with an alternate position for METRO and one (1) voting member with an alternate for another transit agency in the region. Voting membership for the Transit Agency Category will remain at two (2).

Mr. Johnson, AICP recommended Ms. Kimberly Slaughter, representing METRO as the primary member and Lyle Nelson, representing the Brazos Transit District as the alternate. Mr. Ken Fickes, representing Harris County was recommended as the primary member for the

Transit Agency Category and Ms. Paulette Shelton, representing Fort Bend County as the alternate. Mr. Johnson, AICP concluded by requesting approval of the recommendations for the Transit Agency Category of the RTP Subcommittee.

Mr. Billy Cooke, P.E. made a motion to approve the revisions of the Transit Agency Category for the RTP Subcommittee and Mr. Jeffrey Weatherford, P.E., seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

REVIEW OF THE DRAFT 2010-2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP provided a brief overview of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP describes all new federally funded projects and lists locally funded projects and planning activities in the region. The UPWP must be approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). It is funded by numerous funding sources and comprised of five (5) tasks.

1. Program Administration & Management;
2. Data/Modeling Development & Support;
3. Short-Range Planning;
4. Long-Range Planning;
5. Special Studies;

The Draft 2010-2011 UPWP was posted for public comment and a public meeting scheduled for June 2, 2009. The deadline for public comment is June 10, 2009. Staff will seek TPC approval at its June meeting. The document will later be submitted to TxDOT and FHWA in August 2009.

H-GAC staff provided a brief overview of planning activities included in the UPWP for their perspective programs. Ms. Kelly Carpenter, representing the City of Baytown and Mr. Larry Badon, representing METRO reported on planning activities also included in the UPWP. The presentations were concluded by brief comments with discussion.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2010-2013 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Ms. Pat Waskowiak provided a brief overview of the development of the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program. The TIP is largely made up of a TxDOT and Transit program of projects. Ms. Waskowiak informed the Committee that staff is working to develop a program of projects for the summer of 2009. To date, funding targets for future years have not been determined. In the interim, projects that are programmed in the TIP are under review. Surface Transportation Projects (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program projects for the region have been the primary focus as the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) selects projects from these funding categories.

Ms. Waskowiak informed the Committee that there will be a TIP Subcommittee Meeting immediately following the TAC Meeting to discuss STP/MM Program of projects for 2010-2013 and strategies to resolve the large back log of CMAQ projects. The presentation was concluded without comments or questions.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Allen Richey provided a brief overview of active and high profile Texas legislative bills with key provisions such as the Sunset Bill which passed the House on May 11, 2009. The Sunset Bill was amended over 200 times and is expected to be in the Senate Homeland Security and Transportation Committee on May 20, 2009. It will then move to the floor of the Senate and then to a Conference Committee to address proposed changes to the House legislation. Staff will continue to track this bill as it progresses through the legislative process.

Mr. Richey also highlighted House Bills that could affect transportation and the policy boards of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) such as TAC and TPC. The presentation was concluded by question and answers with discussion.

POTENTIAL FOR INCLUSION OF OFF-SYSTEM ROADWAY MAINTENANCE PROJECTS UNDER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) OF 2009

Mr. Alan Clark informed the Committee that the City of Houston raised the question of eligibility of city and county streets for maintenance funding under the ARRA Act of 2009 at the April 24, 2009 TPC meeting. Mr. Clark provided a detailed overview of responses to inquiries made by the City of Houston and TPC.

Mr. Clark informed the Committee that ARRA funds can be used on city and county roadways if they are functionally classified as more than a local street or rural minor collector. A local street is considered an alley, subdivision street, etc. Mr. Clark further discussed requirements for environmental analysis, project scope limitations, minimum design criteria for repairs and maintenance, required criteria for project ranking/recommendation, ARRA criteria, and other considerations.

Mr. Clark requested feedback from the TAC based on the information included in the presentation. Feedback received from the TAC will be reported to the TPC at its May meeting. The presentation was concluded by question and answer with comments.

REPORT ON STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

H-GAC Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP reported that H-GAC is hosting the 12th Transportation Research Board National Transportation Planning Applications Conference on

May 17-21, 2009. The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency located at 1200 Louisiana Street in downtown Houston. For more information, log on to www.trb-appcon.org or contact Chris van Slyke.

Mr. Johnson, AICP reported that May is National Bike Month. Refer to handout in meeting materials for more information or contact Gina Mitteco.

Mr. Johnson, AICP reported that H-GAC is also hosting a public meeting on the Draft 2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) on June 2, 2009 at the H-GAC offices, 2nd floor, Conference Room A. The deadline for the 30-day public comment period will close at 5:00 p.m. on June 10, 2009.

Mr. Johnson, AICP reported that H-GAC assisted the City of Fulshear in hosting a visioning session on May 14, 2009. The session was well attended with positive feedback.

ENERGY CORRIDOR DISTRICT

Mr. Clark Martinson reported that the West Houston Trail is having a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 16, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at Eldridge on Buffalo Bayou. It is a joint project by TxDOT and the City of Houston.

TxDOT Mr. Gabriel Y. Johnson, P.E. reported that TxDOT had a Program Call for Pass-through Financing. The deadline was May 12, 2009. A total of five (5) candidate projects were received from various local entities.

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.

HARRIS COUNTY

There was no status report from Harris County.

FORT BEND COUNTY

There was no status report from Fort Bend County.

BCTRA There was no status report from the BCTRA.

TCEQ There was no status report from TCEQ.

FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Johnson, AICP reported that H-GAC is assisting the Federal Railroad Administration in hosting a meeting on Inner-city Passenger Rail at the Houston Marriott Hotel located on JFK Boulevard on May 29, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Gafrick announced that the next Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting will be held on May 29, 2009 and that the next TAC meeting will be held on June 17, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ken Fickes made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Jeffrey Weatherford, P.E. seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

Chairman Gafrick adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 11:25 a.m.

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

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2009 MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

05/15/09 at 9:30 a.m.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	<u>ALTERNATE</u>	<u>PRESENT *</u>
Sarah Benavides	City of Pasadena	(Vacant)	___
Don Brandon, P.E.	Chambers County	David Abernathy	___
Kelly Carpenter, AICP	City of Baytown	Dick Carter	X
Don Carroll	City of Texas City	(Vacant)	___
(Vacant)	City of Houston	Jeffrey Weatherford, P.E.	A
Maureen Crocker	Intermodal Interests	Jack Whaley, P.E.	X
Catarina Gonzales Cron	Environmental/Planning	Billy Cooke, P.E.	A
David Crossley	Citizen & Business Interests	Christof Spieler	A
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	X
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	___
Phillip Lujan, P.E.	TxDOT Beaumont District	Steven Stafford, P.E.	X
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.	A
A.J. "Pete" Reixach, Jr.	Intermodal Interests	Mike Wilson	___
Gerald Roberts, P.E.	Brazoria County	Kevin Sherrod	___
Dale Rudick, P.E.	City of Sugar Land	Patrick Walsh, P.E.	X
Yancy Scott, P.E.	Waller County	Orval Rhoads, P.E.	___
Paulette Shelton	Rural Transit	Greg Smith	___
John Sedlak	METRO	Kimberly Slaughter	___
Jeff Taebel, FAICP	Environmental/Planning	Patricia Knudson Joiner	A
John Tyler, P.E.	Intermodal Interests	David Gornet	A
Michael Worthy	City of Galveston	Rick Beverlin	X
Bill Zrioka	Intermodal Interests - Airports	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

24 Voting Membership Present

16 Required Quorum