

MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2009

9:30 A.M., CONFERENCE ROOM A

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Gafrick called the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

A list of Committee representatives and alternates attending today's meeting is included with these Minutes as Attachment 1. There were 28 members in attendance; 16 are required for a quorum.

Dr. Carol Lewis with Texas Southern University (TSU) informed the Committee that area high school students participating in the 2009 Houston National Summer Transportation Institute at TSU were in attendance for the meeting. Dr. Lewis provided a brief overview of the summer program and informed the Committee that Mr. Khosro Godazi, Director of the Houston National Summer Transportation Institute would be making a special presentation.

Mr. Godazi presented Mr. Alan Clark with an award of appreciation for his support of the Houston National Summer Transportation Institute. Mr. Clark received the award and expressed his appreciation for the program.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. David Gornet 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. Dale Rudick, P.E. made a motion for approval of the Minutes of the May 15, 2009 meeting and Ms. Perri D'Armond seconded the motion. The Committee voted and approved the minutes.

APPROVAL OF LIBERTY COUNTY TRANSIT PLAN

Mr. Kari Hackett provided a brief overview of the draft Liberty County Transit Plan. Mr. Hackett provided detailed background information of the Liberty County Transit Plan and

identified the short-term, mid-term, and long-term key recommendations, cost estimates and next steps. Mr. Hackett also discussed the key findings and summarized public comments received on the draft plan.

Mr. Hackett informed the Committee that the draft Liberty County Transit Plan is on the June agenda for consideration by Commissioner's Court. The presentation was concluded by comments with question and answer.

Mr. Clark Martinson made a motion for approval of the Liberty County Transit Plan and Ms. Paulette Shelton seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Allen Richey provided a brief overview and wrap up of the Texas 81st Legislative Session. Mr. Richey informed the Committee that the TxDOT Sunset Extension Bill which calls for the membership reformation of MPO Boards, TAC, and etc. failed in the legislative session. It is anticipated that the Governor will call a special session to address this bill. Efforts to enact the Local Option Transportation funding also failed.

Mr. Richey informed the Committee that nineteen (19) eminent domain bills were passed creating municipal utility districts, water control, and improvement districts in the region. Mr. Richey reported that a constitutional amendment was also passed and signed by the Governor which limits the government's power to take property for economic development purposes.

Mr. Richey identified and discussed numerous bills passed in this legislative session. Also discussed were bills that did not pass in this legislative session. The presentation concluded with comments and a brief discussion.

CONFORMITY UPDATE

Dr. Graciela Lubertino provided a brief overview of the latest conformity determination analysis results. The last conformity analysis was approved in June 2008. A new conformity must be completed due to discrepancies between the NEPA documentations done for various projects and descriptions in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) did not agree with modeling.

Dr. Lubertino provided and discussed the new conformity determination analysis results. These results were identified as being far below budget indicating conformity to the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Dr. Lubertino informed the Committee that the public comment period will begin at the end of June and terminate at the end of July.

Dr. Lubertino informed the Committee that a list of the modified projects was included in the meeting materials. The update was concluded by a brief question and answer with comments.

MAINTENANCE PROJECTS FUNDED BY AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA)

Mr. Alan Clark provided a brief overview of the maintenance projects funded by the ARRA. Mr. Clark informed the Committee that information regarding the call for projects process was transmitted to them electronically prior to the meeting. Mr. Clark discussed in detail the call for projects process. Mr. Clark referred to additional information provided in the meeting materials in discussing the project selection criteria, ranking and scoring, and deadlines for submittals. Mr. Clark also discussed the potential concerns for the call for projects process.

Mr. Clark considered a request by the Committee to develop a working group or utilize the TIP Subcommittee to discuss project submittals for ARRA funding. Staff will review the deadlines for this process and schedule a meeting accordingly. The presentation was concluded by questions and answers with discussion.

STATE OF SAFETY REPORT

Mr. Jeff Kaufman provided a detailed overview of the State of Safety Report. The State of Safety Report provides an overview of traffic safety in the region. Mr. Kaufman informed the Committee that safety has improved in the region and provided statistical data. Mr. Kaufman provided a detailed discussion of the crash data also included in the State of Safety Report.

Mr. Kaufman informed the Committee that H-GAC hosted its first statewide safety conference. There were approximately 240 participants in attendance from in and out of region. Mr. Kaufman discussed regional safety activities currently taking place in the region in addition to the start of new campaigns to further promote safety in the region. The presentation was concluded by a brief question and answer with comments.

LIVABLE CENTERS STUDY

Mr. Jeff Taebel provided a brief overview of the results of the first Livable Centers Study of the Greater East End Management District. Mr. Taebel informed the Committee that information on the call for projects for the next set of studies has already been sent to them. The East End Management District is east of Downtown Houston. Mr. Taebel identified the study areas as being adjacent to downtown and the nexus to make the Livable Centers project successful.

The executive summary for the Livable Centers Study of the Greater East End Management District includes improvements which will provide pedestrian access to transit, intersection redesigns, rendering of proposed facilities, etc. The presentation was concluded by a brief overview of the East End Management District given by Diane Schenke, Executive Director of the East Management District.

PRESENTATION ON UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON CAMPUS TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. John Walsh provided a detailed overview of the University of Houston (U of H) Transportation Management Plan. Mr. Walsh informed the Committee that the U of H serves approximately 59,000 students in four (4) universities and four (4) teaching centers in the region. The largest campus is the main campus located at Cullen Boulevard and Interstate 45 South. Mr. Walsh identified and discussed the current conditions and proposed improvements included in the U of H Transportation Management Plan to achieve Tier One status, increase enrollment and enrich the quality of education in the region. The presentation concluded without comment or discussion.

REPORT ON STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

H-GAC Mr. Jeff Taebel reported that a Livable Centers Forum will be held on July 16, 2009. Refer to handout in meeting materials for specific location.

TxDOT There was no status report from TxDOT.

CITY OF GALVESTON

Mr. Michael Worthy reported that the City of Galveston Island Transit in conjunction with Connect Transit will be implementing its Park and Ride service on July 6, 2009. The grand kick-off will be held on July 8, 2009 at the Mall of the Mainland.

CITY OF HOUSTON

Chairman Gafrick reported that the City of Houston will be considering the proposed Transit Corridor Ordinance in July to encourage development along METRO's light rail corridor.

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

There was no future business to report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Gafrick announced that the next Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting will be held on June 26, 2009 and that the next TAC meeting will be held on July 15, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gafrick adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 11:38 a.m.

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

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2009 MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

06/17/09 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)	___
(Vacant)	City of Houston	Jeffrey Weatherford, P.E.	X
Maureen Crocker	Intermodal Interests	Jack Whaley, P.E.	X
Catarina Gonzales Cron	Environmental/Planning	Billy Cooke, P.E.	X
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, FAIA	Smaller Cities	Erwin Burden	X
James Jackson, P.E.	Intermodal Interests - <i>Ports</i>	Steve DeWolf, P.E.	X
Gabriel Johnson, P.E.	TxDOT, Houston District	Elvia R. Cardinal, P.E.	X

Jeff Johnson, P.E.	Montgomery County	Ross McCall, EIT	X
Mark Loethen	Environmental/Planning	Karl Pepple	X
Phillip Lujan, P.E.	TxDOT Beaumont District	Steven Stafford, P.E.	A
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	A
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	X
Kimberly Slaughter	METRO	Larry Badon	A
Jeff Taebel, FAICP	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

28 Voting Membership Present

16 Required Quorum