

MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2009

9:30 A.M., CONFERENCE ROOM A

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Clark Martinson served as Chairman and facilitated the meeting in Chairman Gafrick's and Vice Chairman Elmer's absence.

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

Committee members and staff introduced themselves. 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 Mr. Ken Fickes seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Emily Braswell made a motion for approval of the Minutes of the July 15, 2009 meeting and Mr. David Crossley seconded the motion. The Committee voted and approved the minutes.

CONFORMITY UPDATE

Dr. Graciela Lubertino, Ph.D. provided an update on the latest conformity determination analysis results. Dr. Lubertino informed the Committee that the conformity determination analysis results had changed since last reported. Dr. Lubertino indicated that there had been a reduction in emissions each year due to the implementation of the new emissions standards.

The public comment period for the conformity determination analysis results began on July 22, 2009 and will close on August 22, 2009. A public meeting was held on August 13, 2009. Staff requested TAC recommendation for TPC approval of the conformity determination

analysis results pending public comment. The conformity update was concluded by a brief question and answer.

CITY OF TOMBALL LIVABLE CENTERS STUDY

Ms. Meredith Dang provided an overview of the City of Tomball Livable Centers Study. The purpose of the Livable Centers Program is to create walkable, mixed-use places that are well connected and accessible by multiple modes. Ms. Dang informed the Committee that the City of Tomball Livable Centers Study focuses its downtown district.

Ms. Dang discussed in detail the recommendations for improvements to the major corridor also known as FM 2920 in the City of Tomball's downtown. These recommendations are the result of an access management study which includes a parking plan, signage, pedestrian and streetscape improvements, improved safety and mobility, and an open gateway and depot plaza.

Ms. Dang introduced Ms. Gretchen Fagan, Mayor of the City of Tomball to present closing remarks. The presentation was concluded by a brief question and answer with comments.

UPDATE ON JARC AND NEW FREEDOM PROJECT SELECTIONS

Mr. Kari Hackett provided an update to an action item presented at the July meeting. Mr. Hackett informed the Committee that with TAC recommendation, the TPC approved four (4) projects for funding under the JARC and New Freedom Programs. Following TPC approval, approximately \$800 thousand dollars remained in FY 07 funding that was allocated to the urbanized area for those programs.

Mr. Hackett informed the Committee that another call for projects was later issued. Staff received proposals but those proposals were not recommended for funding in time to obligate the remaining funds. As a result, an additional two (2) years was added to the Pearland Park and Ride Service and additional funding was added to another existing project. Staff is in receipt of a letter of support from the City of Pearland for the additional local match that would be required. A copy of that letter was included in the meeting materials. This information will be presented to the TPC as an administrative amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The update was concluded by a brief question and answer with comments.

UPDATE ON REGIONAL AVIATION SYSTEMS PLAN

Mr. Keith Garber provided an update on the Regional Aviation Systems Plan (RASP).

Mr. Garber informed the Committee that the purpose for the RASP is to provide a framework for airport improvements through the year 2040. The RASP covers 13 counties and is different from other transportation activities. The last update of the plan was completed in 1991. The RASP involves 18 public airports, ten (10) private-public use airports, 10 reliever airports, and two (2) commercial airports for a total inventory of twenty eight (28) airports in the 13-county region.

Mr. Garber identified and discussed the regional aviation issues and goals. A series of public hearings will be held during the month of September 2009. Phase I of the plan will be completed at the end of September. Phase II of the plan which will include actual forecasts, scenarios, and recommendations for the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems will begin in October. The update was concluded with a quote and a brief question and answer.

ARRA IMPLEMENTATION STATUS REPORT

Mr. Alan Clark provided a status report on the obligation activities associated with ARRA funding. Mr. Clark informed the Committee that the process has been singularly successful. The State has met all of its statewide obligations and transit properties have met their responsibility for getting funds obligated. Projects are now contracted and under construction or completed. A list of those projects that have gone to contract was provided in the meeting materials. In coordination with the TxDOT Beaumont and Houston Districts, H-GAC has developed websites that display statewide ARRA projects and their status, etc. Also included in the meeting materials was a letter sent to our congressional delegation in response to a letter from Chairman Oberstar of the House of Transportation Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. Clark briefly discussed the TIGER Grant process. H-GAC issued a request for potential TIGER projects that could be considered by the state. The Texas Transportation Commission directed TxDOT staff to endorse as many projects possible. Local sponsors will carry project proposals forward and assistance will be provided as needed. These actions will not limit a state endorsement to a small number of larger projects.

Mr. Clark informed the Committee that staff sent information to the project sponsors that responded on how to obtain a state endorsement for their perspective proposals. A website has been set up to provide basic information about projects. The information will be reviewed and a state endorsement will be facilitated for the project. H-GAC will provide a letter of support if requested by the project sponsor. The status report was concluded by a brief question and answer with comments.

Ms. Theresa Pella, Air Quality Planning Section Manager with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality provided comments and answered questions regarding conformity requirements for projects and the reduction of vehicle emissions during goods movement.

Ms. Pella also provided a brief overview on particulate matter. Ms. Pella informed the Committee that particulate matter is one of six (6) criteria pollutants contained in the Clean Air Act. The federal health base standards must be met regarding this pollutant.

Ms. Pella identified and discussed monitors that are currently in place to monitor exceedances of the annual PM2.5 standard. TCEQ conducted an analysis to determine why certain PM2.5 monitors in the Houston area yielded incrementally higher readings than others. It was determined that exceedances recorded at the Clinton Drive monitor were caused by dust from adjacent roads, parking lots, etc. TCEQ, city and county officials, and facilities located in the Clinton Drive area are working to identify solutions for eliminating the excessive dust. Ms. Pella discussed the possibility of receiving a nonattainment designation from EPA for the Clinton Drive and surrounding areas and the consequences of such a designation. The presentation was concluded by brief comments with question and answer.

REPORT ON STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

H-GAC Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP reported that H-GAC will host its annual Clean Air Action "Best in Motion" Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, August 26, 2009. Ms. Gina McCarthy, U.S. EPA Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) will serve as keynote speaker. Please refer to handout in meeting materials.

TxDOT There was no status report from TxDOT.

CITY OF GALVESTON

There was no status report from the City of Galveston.

CITY OF HOUSTON

Mr. Mark Loethen reported that there will be a Bikeway ribbon cutting ceremony for Little White Oak Bayou Trail on September 12, 2009 and MKT Rails of Trails on October 3, 2009.

METRO Ms. Kimberly Slaughter reported that Houston received final design entry from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on August 17, 2009 for the North and Southeast Light Rail Line. METRO is in the final stages of a full funding grant agreement and negotiations with FTA. A commitment for a total \$950 million for both projects has been received.

RAQPC There was no status report from RAQPC.

HARRIS COUNTY

There was no status report from Harris County.

FORT BEND COUNTY

Ms. Paulette Shelton reported that vans are at capacity at peak times under the New Freedom Program. Ms. Shelton also remarked that H-GAC regional publications continue to omit references to other transportation providers that are outside the City of Houston and Harris County.

BCTRA There was no status report from the BCTRA.

TCEQ There was no status report from TCEQ.

GCRD Ms. Maureen Crocker reported that with H-GAC's assistance, the Gulf Coast Rail District is working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with TxDOT and METRO. The MOU is for development of the commuter rail lines along US 290 and SH 3. The Gulf Coast Rail District is preparing to initiate preliminary engineering along both corridors to determine capital improvements that will be required in the costs associated with the project.

FUTURE BUSINESS

There was no future business to report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. David Crossley announced that a conference will be held on September 24-25, 2009 on "The Texas Triangle as a Mega-Region". For more information, access www.texastriangle.org.

Chairman Martinson announced that the Bikeway Program will host the "Realizing a Regional Bikeway Network" Conference on September 23, 2009 at H-GAC offices.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Martinson adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 11:05 a.m.

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

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2009 MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

08/19/09 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)	___
Jeffrey Weatherford, P.E.	City of Houston	(Vacant)	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	X
Perri D'Armond	Citizen & Business Interests	Emily Braswell	A
David Douglas	Liberty County	Jimmy Sterling	___
Scott Elmer, P.E.	City of Missouri City	Valerie Ruda	A
Ken Fickes	Urban Transit	John Saavedra	X
Mike Fitzgerald, P.E.	Galveston County	Rod Shaut	___
Marlene Gafrick	Environmental/Planning	Carol Lewis	___
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	___
Mark Loethen	Environmental/Planning	Karl Pepple	X
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	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.	X
Paulette Shelton	Rural Transit	Greg Smith	X
Kimberly Slaughter	METRO	Larry Badon	X
Jeff Taebel, FAICP	Environmental/Planning	Patricia Knudson Joiner	___
John Tyler, P.E.	Intermodal Interests	David Gornet	X
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