

**MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009**  
**9:30 A.M., CONFERENCE ROOM A**

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Gafrick called the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:33 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 25 members in attendance; 16 are required for a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Gafrick informed the Committee that agenda item 6 (six) was being changed to an information item.

Mr. Scott Elmer, P.E. made a motion for adoption of the Agenda as amended and Mr. Clark Martinson seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Gafrick thanked Mr. Clark Martinson for facilitating the August TAC Meeting in her absence. Chairman Gafrick informed the Committee that her attendance was required at a Council Meeting for a presentation on the City of Houston's Transit Corridor Ordinance.

Mr. Clark Martinson made a motion for approval of the Minutes of the August 19, 2009 meeting and Mr. Ken Fickes seconded the motion. The Committee voted and approved the minutes.

APPROVAL OF CHAMBERS COUNTY TRANSIT PLAN

Mr. Kari Hackett provided a brief overview of the Chambers County Transit Plan. Mr. Hackett informed the Committee that the population base for Chambers County is approximately 28,000 people. The current public transportation system consists of 2 (two) transit vehicles that operate through senior citizens programs in 2 (two) different locations. Chambers County also receives services from the State Health and Human Services Commission which provides

Medicaid transportation for elders.

Mr. Hackett briefly discussed the population and employment density, 2035 projections, transit needs index, journey to work travel patterns, and existing public transportation services for Chambers County. Mr. Hackett also identified and discussed the short-, mid- and long-term recommendations for Chambers County.

Mr. Hackett informed the Committee that with TAC approval and recommendation to the Transportation Policy Council (TPC), implementation of the short-term recommendations in the Chambers County Transportation Plan will be coordinated. Mr. Hackett concluded the presentation by inviting a representative from Chambers County to provide comment. Mr. Don Brandon provided comments regarding the expansion of transit services in Chambers County. A brief question and answer followed.

Mr. Clark Martinson made a motion for approval of the Chambers County Transit Plan and Mr. Mr. Gerald Roberts, P.E. seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

#### FY 2010 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM LETTING SCHEDULE

Ms. Pat Waskowiak provided an update on the FY 2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) letting schedule. Ms. Waskowiak informed the Committee that a new TIP has not been submitted to TxDOT and added that staff would be working through December to develop a new TIP. TxDOT has been currently working on the 2010 letting schedule. Letting caps have been received for FY 2010 only. Staff has not received any additional information regarding expected funding for future years. Ms. Waskowiak referred to the information included in the meeting materials to illustrate the impact of the funding shortfall on our region and the current TIP.

Ms. Waskowiak informed the Committee that funds are not available to implement the TIP as it was programmed, approved, and adopted in 2007. Staff has been working with the TIP Subcommittee to focus on Categories 5 (five) and 7 (seven), CMAQ, and STP funding. Staff has also been in discussions with TxDOT regarding other funding categories in working towards a new TIP. Staff is primarily working to implement the projects that are already programmed in the existing TIP. It is unlikely that there will be a general call for projects to add new projects to the TIP.

Mr. Mark Loethen provided an overview of the activities of the TIP Subcommittee. Mr. Loethen informed the Committee that the TIP Subcommittee has been focused on CMAQ and STP funding and that the numbers are consistently changing. The latest allocation numbers received from TxDOT for FY 2010 show that the region will receive under \$61 million a year in CMAQ funding and approximately \$67 million a year in STP funding. By request of the TIP Subcommittee, staff has been working on specific scenarios to evaluate the TIP. Mr. Loethen

identified and provided a brief overview of those scenarios.

The TIP Subcommittee decided that it would be best to continue on course with cash flow management with minor adjustments due to inflation. Mr. Loethen informed the Committee that it was determined that there are FTA fund transfers in the amount of \$25 million still outstanding. The TIP Subcommittee recommended that those FTA fund transfers be moved forward to utilize every available dollar in FY '09. The TIP Subcommittee will work with applicants to determine if projects can be set for a 2011 letting and does recommend a call for projects. As FY 2010 progresses, the TIP Subcommittee will receive feedback from staff to determine if a limited call for projects is needed for the next TIP.

Chairman Gafrick commended staff and the TIP Subcommittee on their efforts regarding the TIP. The presentation was concluded by a question and answer with comments.

#### FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Allen Richey provided a brief overview of the federal transportation authorization act activities. Mr. Richey informed the Committee that the Transportation Appropriations Bill is being considered by the Senate this week. It will be finished in the Senate this week and move on to the Conference Committee.

Mr. Richey informed the Committee that the Climate Change legislation passed the House and contains several provisions that require Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to calculate greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation road and mobility networks. MPOs must develop, submit, and publish emissions targets and strategies. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is expected to act on its version of the bill before the end of September. It is unclear when the bill will be considered due to healthcare becoming a priority.

Mr. Richey informed the Committee that the Surface Transportation Reauthorization consists of a \$500 billion proposal by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The bill is in draft form and has not been filed or introduced. It is unclear when the bill will be considered by the House or Senate. The Administration and Senate has favored an 18 month extension to give the chambers more time to work through policy concerns. The House prefers a 3 (three) month extension. To date, that debate has not been resolved.

Movement with the Transportation Appropriations Bill, Climate Change legislation, and Surface Transportation Reauthorization is contingent upon the time utilized on resolving issues with healthcare. The update was concluded by a brief question and answer with comments.

Mr. Ashby Johnson provided a brief overview of the federal rescission. Mr. Johnson informed the Committee that the rescission was written into the current federal transportation bill which will become inactive this month. Mr. Johnson reported that TxDOT has already received

letters from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) disclosing that Texas is responsible for approximately \$750 million of the rescission. The Energy and Security Act states that if a state does not have the necessary money to rescind back to FHWA, their shortfall can be rescinded from another state that does have money available to do so. Texas has enough unobligated authority to rescind those funds. Mr. Johnson informed the TAC on how this matter will come to the forefront during discussions regarding reauthorization of the transportation bill. Staff will monitor the situation closely.

#### ARRA IMPLEMENTATION STATUS REPORT

Mr. Ashby Johnson provided a brief update on the obligation activities associated with the ARRA funding in Mr. Alan Clark's absence. Mr. Johnson identified and briefly discussed those projects that went to letting in August. Mr. Johnson informed the Committee that it is anticipated that more projects will be let in October. The MPO portion of the stimulus projects are not moving as fast as anticipated. Those projects must be obligated by March 2010. Staff is currently working with TxDOT on the matter.

Mr. Johnson reported that the submittal deadline for Tiger grants was September 15, 2009. Letters of support were provided to several local governments by request. The report was concluded without questions or comments.

#### REPORT ON STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

H-GAC Ms. Shelley Whitworth reported on activities regarding the State Implementation Plan (SIP). This region was reclassified to severe nonattainment in 2008. EPA identified April 15, 2010 as the deadline for submittal of a new SIP for the 1997 ozone standard. Ms. Whitworth discussed emission reductions, mobile sources, TCMs, and VMEPs.

Ms. Whitworth reported that the proposed SIP will be considered on September 23, 2009 by TCEQ Commissioners. The public comment period will begin on October 9, 2009 and end on November 9, 2009. Ms. Whitworth informed the Committee of the dates and locations for upcoming public hearings and reported that March 10, 2010 is the anticipated adoption date for the SIP.

Mr. Ashby Johnson reported that H-GAC is in the process of updating the Regional Aviation System Plan. Refer to handout in the meeting materials for more information on remaining public meetings in Fort Bend County, Sugar Land, and Conroe. The public comment period will close on October 12, 2009.

TxDOT There was no status report from TxDOT.

CITY OF GALVESTON

Mr. Michael Worthy reported that the City of Galveston Downtown Partnership will be hosting a “Car Free” Day on September 22, 2009 at Shearn Moody Plaza from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Transportation is free to all visitors.

CITY OF HOUSTON

There was no status report from the City of Houston.

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

Ms. Emily Braswell announced that Blueprint Houston will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Citizens Congress at 9:00 a.m. on October 3, 2009 at the George R. Brown Convention Center, Exhibit Hall E.

Mr. Clark Martinson announced that H-GAC will host a Bicycle Regional Connection Brainstorming at the West Loop Marriott on September 23, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

Chairman Gafrick announced that the next Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting will be held on September 25, 2009 and that the next TAC meeting will be held on October 14, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gafrick adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 10:27 a.m.

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

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2009 MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

**09/16/09 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	X
Kelly Carpenter, AICP	City of Baytown	Dick Carter	X
Don Carroll	City of Texas City	(Vacant)	___
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	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.	A
Robert Heineman, FAIA	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.	___
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.	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.J. "Pete" Reixach, Jr.	Intermodal Interests	Mike Wilson	A
Gerald Roberts, P.E.	Brazoria County	Kevin Sherrod	X
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	___
Kimberly Slaughter	METRO	Larry Badon	A
Jeff Taebel, FAICP	Environmental/Planning	Patricia Knudson Joiner	A
John Tyler, P.E.	Intermodal Interests	David Gornet	X
Jeffrey Weatherford, P.E.	City of Houston	(Vacant)	X
Michael Worthy	City of Galveston	Rick Beverlin	X
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

25 Voting Membership Present

16 Required Quorum