

MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2009
9:30 A.M., CONFERENCE ROOM A

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Gafrick called the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:34 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

Mr. Dale Rudick, P.E. made a motion for adoption of the Agenda and Mr. Jeffrey Weatherford, 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 September 16, 2009 meeting and Ms. Kelley Carpenter, AICP seconded the motion. The Committee voted and approved the minutes.

ARRA IMPLEMENTATION STATUS REPORT

Mr. Alan Clark invited Mr. John Tyler, P.E. of Harris County Toll Road Authority to discuss why federal stimulus funds are not a part of the Grand Parkway Segment E project. Mr. Tyler briefly discussed the difficulties in obtaining an Army Corps of Engineers' permit for the Segment E project. Mr. Tyler also responded that releasing the \$181 million originally allocated for Segment E for other purposes throughout the State should be an action item for Harris County Commissioners Court.

Mr. Gabriel Y. Johnson, P.E. confirmed existing challenges in meeting deadlines for various projects. Mr. Johnson, P.E. informed the Committee that the Commission took action in terms of having substitution projects or contingency lists. Mr. Johnson, P.E. later identified projects included in the contingency lists. Mr. Johnson, P.E. reported that out of the \$181 million, \$165 million allocated for Segment E was TxDOT ARRA funding and \$16 million is

MPO ARRA funding.

Mr. Clark later identified and discussed the contingency projects funded by the MPO ARRA portion, maintenance rehabilitation projects, etc. Mr. Clark informed the Committee that staff will be asking the TPC to consider identifying its preferences for the use of the \$16 million at its October meeting. The status report was concluded by question and answer with comments.

INITIATION OF REGIONAL TRANSIT FRAMEWORK STUDY

Ms. Shaida Dezfuli introduced Mr. Scott Miller of HDR Engineering, Inc. as the Project Manager and presenter of the Regional Transit Framework Study. Mr. Miller informed the Committee that the study identifies regional transit needs, addresses multiple horizons, and provides a basis for future policy decisions. Mr. Miller identified and discussed framework objectives and project scope for the Regional Transit Framework Study.

Mr. Miller also identified and briefly discussed the phases of the project process for the Regional Transit Framework Study. The project schedule for the Regional Transit Framework Study indicated a research and analysis period in January and February 2010 and an estimated completion date of September 2010. The presentation was concluded by comments with question and answer.

CITY OF HOUSTON TRANSIT CORRIDOR ORDINANCE

Chairman Gafrick provided a brief overview of the City of Houston's Transit Corridor Ordinance. The Transit Corridor Ordinance was approved by the Planning Commission on June 11, 2009 and adopted by Houston City Council on August 19, 2009. Chairman Gafrick discussed the history, mandatory rules, opt-in requirements, and other standards for the pedestrian realm included in the Transit Corridor Ordinance. Chairman Gafrick referred to the slide presentation in discussing the details of the planning process.

Chairman Gafrick further discussed the planning phases and funding sources for the Transit Corridor Ordinance. The presentation was concluded by a brief question and answer with comments.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Allen Richey provided a brief update on federal legislation. Mr. Richey informed the Committee that climate change, transportation appropriations, and transportation authorizations remain the 3 (three) biggest vehicles for legislative policy effects for transportation.

Mr. Richey reported that there were big developments in the healthcare debate. A healthcare package will be considered on the senate floor by the end of October or early November. It will be reconciled to a house proposal before the end of the year and later sent to the president. These actions should clear the way for the transportation legislation that has been held up. Mr. Richey identified and discussed future movement of bills regarding climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.

An extension for the transportation authorization is in debate over a 3 (three) month or 1 (one) year-long extension. It is anticipated that by the end of October, there will be a retroactive repeal of the SAFETEA-LU rescission. Congress will have to extend the Transportation Highway Trust Fund and the transportation program before the end of October. The report was concluded without questions or comments.

REPORT ON STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

H-GAC Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP reported that H-GAC staff hosted outreach meetings with county engineers in the 8-county planning region. These meetings took place in September of this year. Mr. Noel Bowman and Ms. Chandra Carrasco were the lead staff on that effort.

Mr. Noel Bowman reported that staff has worked with planners, county engineers, and GIS staff to collect existing and proposed thoroughfares, update GIS files, and identify priorities for the next 10 (ten) years for the 2040 RTP Update. A follow up workshop for counties in the 8-county planning region is planned for the near future.

Mr. Johnson, AICP reported that the new bikeways brochure is available for review.

Mr. Johnson, AICP reported that Phase I of the Regional Aviation System Plan has ended and Phase II is underway.

Mr. Johnson, AICP reported that TxDOT has announced the 2009 call for projects for the Enhancements Program. TxDOT began accepting applications on October 9, 2009. The call for projects deadline is December 11, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. A workshop hosted by the TxDOT Houston District is scheduled for November 6, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. For more information, contact Ms. Teri Kaplan at (713) 802-5810.

Mr. Jeff Taebel, FAICP reported that the Subregional Planning Initiative is underway in the Eastport area. This area consists of 13 (thirteen) municipalities, Harris County, Port of Houston, and significant funding from the Port Alliance. Two public meetings were held in Webster and Pasadena at the end of September.

The main issues of concern were mitigating the impacts of truck traffic from existing and anticipated future growth in the Port and Commuter Transit. A toolbox of best practices has been developed for local governments to enhance transportation strategies that are discussed in the initiative. Please access the website at www.h-gac.com/go/subregional to review more information.

TxDOT There was no status report from TxDOT.

CITY OF GALVESTON

There was no status report from the City of Galveston.

CITY OF HOUSTON

Chairman Gafrick reported that there is an item on today's Houston City Council agenda to approve a contract for census outreach efforts.

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

Mr. Clark Martinson announced that copies of the Energy Corridor's "A Unified Transportation Project" were available for review.

Chairman Gafrick announced that the next Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting will be held on October 23, 2009 and that the next TAC meeting will be held on December 9, 2009. There will not be a November TAC meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gafrick adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 10:50 a.m.

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

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2009 MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

10/14/09 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) | X |
| Maureen Crocker | Intermodal Interests | Jack Whaley, P.E. | X |
| Catarina Gonzales Cron | Environmental/Planning | Billy Cooke, P.E. | ___ |
| David Crossley | Citizen & Business Interests | Christof Spieler | ___ |
| 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 | ___ |
| 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 Y. Johnson, P.E. | TxDOT, Houston District | (Vacant) | X |
| Jeff Johnson, P.E. | Montgomery County | Ross McCall, EIT | X |

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| 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.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 | 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 | A |
| Jeff Taebel, FAICP | Environmental/Planning | Patricia Knudson Joiner | X |
| 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 | 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