

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

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Gafrick called the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:32 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 24 members in attendance; 16 are required for a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

Chairman Gafrick reminded the presenters of the time limits for their agenda item. Chairman Gafrick informed the importance of time management during TAC meetings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Perri D'Armond made a motion for approval of the Minutes of the October 14, 2009 meeting and Mr. Ken Fickes seconded the motion. The Committee voted and approved the minutes.

APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2010 SELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman Gafrick recommended Mr. Dale Rudick, P.E. (City of Sugar Land), Mr. Yancy Scott, P.E. (City of Waller), and Mr. Mark Loethen (City of Houston) to serve on the TAC Nominating Committee for 2010.

Mr. Gerald Roberts, P.E. made a motion for approval of the recommendations for the TAC Nominating Committee for 2010 and Mr. Gabriel Y. Johnson, P.E. seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

JOB ACCESS REVERSE COMMUTE (JARC) NEW FREEDOM STAFF
RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Kari Hackett provided a brief overview of the JARC Program and the Energy Corridor District JARC Project. Mr. Hackett informed the Committee that the JARC Program was set up to provide new transportation services for low income persons. The Reverse Commute aspect addresses transportation services to suburban employment centers. Mr. Hackett also identified and discussed the local match requirements.

Mr. Hackett informed the Committee that the Energy Corridor District JARC Project is a reverse commute project and it consists of an Eldridge Crosstown Circulator Bus Route. This project will connect the Energy Corridor District with several METRO local bus routes and the Addicks Park and Ride Lot. The requested JARC funds total approximately \$3,044,218 over a 3-year period. Mr. Hackett briefly discussed the funding partnerships for this project.

Mr. Hackett discussed funding and presented a preliminary 2010 schedule for the JARC/New Freedom Program. The presentation was concluded with staff's request for approval of funding for the Energy Corridor District JARC Project.

Mr. Clark Martinson of the Energy Corridor District provided brief comments regarding the Energy Corridor District JARC Project. A brief question and answer followed.

Ms. Paulette Shelton made a motion for approval of the Energy Corridor District JARC Project and Mr. Ken Fickes seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

SH 6 SOUTH, SH 6/FM 1960 AND FM 529 ACCESS MANAGEMENT STUDY UPDATE

Ms. Christy Willhite informed the Committee that H-GAC is conducting access management studies in the southern and northern corridors of SH 6 which include SH 6 South from FM 521 to I- 45 South, SH 6 from I-10 North to US 290, FM 1960 from US 290 to SH 249, and FM 529 from US 290 to Greenhouse Road. Ms. Willhite introduced Mr. Mike Heath with Kimley Horn & Associates as the presenter for the northern corridor of SH 6 and Mr. Kurt Schulte with Kimley Horn & Associates as the presenter for the southern corridor of SH 6.

Mr. Heath provided a brief overview of the northern corridor of SH 6. Mr. Heath informed the Committee that the SH 6 northern corridor project consists of 14.2 miles, 77 intersections, and 462 driveways. Mr. Heath identified and briefly discussed the project team, project description, and goals. Mr. Heath also discussed current conditions, safety and access, and an access management toolbox for the project. A public workshop was held at the Copperfield Church on October 15, 2009. Mr. Heath briefly discussed the coordination process for the workshop and the public comments/input received. Access the project website, www.sh6mobility.com for more information on the project. The presentation was concluded by a brief question and answer with comments.

Mr. Kurt Schulte provided a brief overview of the southern corridor of SH 6. Mr. Schulte identified and discussed the project sponsors, goals, and scope for the southern corridor of SH 6. Mr. Schulte informed the Committee that the primary focus for this project is on creating a tiered plan with short, medium, and long range projects that address all transportation modes. Mr. Schulte presented and discussed crash data for the southern corridor of SH 6. Public meetings were held on September 22, 2009 in Santa Fe and September 24, 2009 in Manvel. A series of public meetings have been tentatively scheduled for 2010. Access the project website, www.sh6mobility.com for more information on the project. The presentation was concluded by a brief question and answer with comments.

ARRA IMPLEMENTATION STATUS REPORT

Mr. Alan Clark provided a brief update on the ARRA implementation status using football terms. Mr. Clark informed the Committee that transportation improvements have been delayed by inflation and red tape. Cost underruns and hard work by the State, MPOs, local governments, and contractors have kept inflation down. Mr. Clark added that agreements are now being finalized on projects that have yet to be let to contract. There have also been discussions about the programming of cost underruns on projects let through the March time period.

Mr. Clark informed the Committee that it is important for local governments to continue to work hard on projects that have not yet been committed to funding in order to utilize the remaining funding. The report was concluded by a brief question and answer with comments.

UPDATE ON THE 2011-2014 TIP AND 2035 RTP

Ms. Pat Waskowiak provided a brief update on the 2011-2014 TIP and 2035 RTP. Ms. Waskowiak informed the Committee that the TxDOT Houston and Beaumont Districts along with local governments have worked hard get local maintenance projects to contract. Staff has the requested information from TxDOT and a new TIP and 2035 RTP Update will be developed and submitted in the coming months.

Ms. Waskowiak discussed the status of the 2008-2011 TIP. Ms. Waskowiak also provided funding opportunities relating to highway projects. Approximately \$921 million is currently programmed in the TIP that is not anticipated to be let to contract in the time period of this TIP. Ms. Waskowiak briefly identified and discussed unfunded mobility projects in the 2008-2011 TIP. Ms. Waskowiak presented a development schedule for the 2011-2014 TIP and 2035 RTP Update and discussed funding opportunities. Ms. Waskowiak also referred to the meeting materials in briefly discussing minute orders approved by the Texas Transportation Commission at its last meeting. The report was concluded by a brief question and answer with discussion of the TIP Subcommittee and TAC's role in the development of the next TIP. The Committee agreed that the TIP Subcommittee would continue to play a crucial role in the

development of future TIPs. The Committee and staff also agreed that future TIP Subcommittee meetings will be scheduled approximately 1 (one) hour prior to each monthly TAC meetings.

WALLER LIVABLE CENTERS STUDY

Mr. Jeff Taebel provided a brief overview of the results of the Waller Livable Centers Study. The Waller Livable Centers Study is available on the website at www.h-gac.com/livablecenters. Mr. Taebel informed the Committee that there is a total of 8 (eight) studies and 6 (six) implementation projects.

Mr. Taebel informed the Committee that the Waller Livable Center Study includes pedestrian and streetscape improvements, civic square improvements, and potential for commuter rail. Mr. Taebel also informed the Committee that there has been a lot of community and elected leader support. Prairie View A&M University's Architecture School conducted a design competition for potential buildings. Mr. Clark Martinson participated in judging the designs submitted for the competition. Mr. Taebel concluded by introducing the Mayor for the City of Waller.

The Mayor for the City of Waller, Paul Wood and Mr. John Isom, President of the Economic Development Corporation for the City of Waller provided comments on the vision, growth and development of the City of Waller and Waller County. Mayor Wood also discussed the importance of a livable center for the City of Waller. The presentation concluded with brief comments.

REPORT ON STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

H-GAC Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP reported that the H-GAC Vision Newsletter will now be transmitted via email on a monthly basis. Contact Mike.fuller@h-gac.com to contribute news and information for the newsletter.

Mr. Johnson, AICP reported that H-GAC's Commute Solutions Program partnered with Houston International Sports Properties (ISP) for the University of Houston's 1st Annual "Go Coogs, Go Green Football Game" on November 21, 2009 at Robertson Stadium versus the University of Memphis. Staff distributed information and promotional items to over 6,000 participants.

Mr. Johnson, AICP also reported that H-GAC hosted a public meeting on **November 10, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.** at H-GAC offices to solicit comments on corrections to the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan and an amendment to the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan involving the SH 99 at IH 10 interchange. The public comment period closed at 5:00 p.m. on November 25, 2009 and a total of 200 comments were received.

Mr. Jeff Taebel reported that H-GAC has recently completed a Livable Centers Incentive Strategy that includes an interactive tool to calculate project cost and sales tax.

TxDOT Mr. Gabriel Y. Johnson, P.E. reported that TxDOT is hosting the 5th Annual Texas Transportation Forum on January 6-8, 2010 in Austin, Texas. Mr. Johnson, P.E. also thanked the Committee and staff for their support during his career with TxDOT.

CITY OF GALVESTON

There was no status report from the City of Galveston.

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.

BRAZORIA COUNTY

Mr. Gerald Roberts, P.E. reported that Brazoria County is working with the Port of Freeport and TxDOT on doing a pass-thru project on SH 36. A contract is anticipated in January.

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 Mr. Gabriel Y. Johnson, P.E. will be retiring in January after many years of service. Chairman Gafrick commended and thanked Mr. Johnson, P.E. for his leadership, insight, and services in transportation planning.

Chairman Gafrick announced that the next Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting will be held on December 18, 2009 and that the next TAC meeting will be held on January 13, 2010. Chairman Gafrick also announced that the new start time for future TAC meetings will be 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gafrick adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 10:55 a.m.

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

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2009 MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

12/09/09 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)	___
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	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	___
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

Mark Loethen	Environmental/Planning	Karl Pepple	X
Phillip Lujan, P.E.	TxDOT Beaumont District	Steven Stafford, P.E.	___
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	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 - 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