

MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2010

10:00 A.M., CONFERENCE ROOM A

INTRODUCTIONS

Vice Chairman Scott Elmer, P.E. called the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 10:02 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. Jeff Weatherford, P.E. made a motion for adoption of the Agenda and Ms. Perri D'Armond seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion was carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Scott Elmer, P.E. made a motion for approval of the Minutes of the February 17, 2010 meeting and Mr. Mark Loethen, P. E. seconded the motion. The Committee voted and approved the minutes.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2010-2011 TAC SUBCOMMITTEES

Mr. Ashby Johnson reported that some individuals were unable to submit their recommendations to the TAC Subcommittee nomination list and suggested nominations be taken from the floor, reviewed by staff to assure nominees fit within the categories of the by-laws for each subcommittee and have another nominating committee meeting to address the issue. There were no objections and nominations were taken from the floor as follows:

Operations Task Force – No Nominations were made.

Pedestrian & Bicycle Subcommittee – Ian Hlvacek
Cheryl Mergo as Alternate to Jeff Taebel
John O'Malley
John Saavedra

Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee – Rebecca Jasso, United Way of Greater Houston
Michael Worthy, City of Galveston
Rick Beverlin as Alternate to Michael Worthy
James Hoss, Fort Bend Transit
James Hollis, Brazoria County Connect Transit

Regional Transportation Plan Subcommittee – No Nominations were made.

TCM/VMEP Development Working Group – David Gornet as Alternate

Transportation Demand Management Implementation Subcommittee - No Nominations were made.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee:

Mark Loethen
Paulette Shelton, Fort Bend County
Gerald Roberts, Brazoria County
Kevin Sherrod as Alternate to Gerald Roberts
Patricia Joiner as Alternate to Jeff Taebel
Dale Rudick as Alternate to Pat Walsh
Jeff Weatherford as Alternate to Mark Loethen
Mike Hodge, City of Pearland
Michael Worthy as Alternate to Rick Beverlin
Jess Hegemier as Alternate to Paulette Shelton

No action was necessary and a revised roster will be presented at the next meeting on April 14, 2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2011-2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
(TIP) for Funding Categories 5 & 7

Ms. Pat Waskowiak informed the Committee that the federal transportation bill requires that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and long range transportation plan be shown in year of expenditure dollars and total project cost. The adopted TIP and Plan of 2007 did not meet these requirements because the fiscal constraint guidance was being developed at the time. Once federal guidelines were set in place, the TIP and plan were revised but still failed to meet the fiscal constraint requirements. In 2008, TxDOT began revising its revenue forecast and since then the Committee has been working on meeting the fiscal constraint and reconciling the TIP and plan. The 2010 TxDOT forecast provided revised letting cap figures for the number of projects to be let each year which were lower than anticipated and the Committee must now revise its program of projects and TIP to the lower letting cap amount. It should be noted that TxDOT applied local contributions to the letting cap total.

For the past eight months the TIP Subcommittee has been evaluating which projects are ready to let to contract within the time frame of the TIP and also maintain balance within the available expenditure dollars for each respective year of the TIP.

Since November, 2009 the Federal Highway and Federal Transit Administrations stated that no amendments may be made to the TIP except for stimulus, locally funded or transit projects.

A large portion of STP and CMAQ funds have been allocated to the IH 610/U.S. 290 Interchange reducing our ability to add other projects in 2011 other than the University Project, Regional Van Pool and Air Quality Program which must be funded according to the state implementation plan requirements. Mr. Rakesh Tripathi, P.E. brought it to the Committee's attention that the current allocation for the IH 610/U.S. 290 project reflects Phase I of II, which is only a small portion of a bigger project and is partly funded by Proposition 12 dollars.

The latest TIP plan reflects over budgeting for Year 2014 by almost \$20MM due to the total cost of some project estimates being much higher than originally anticipated.

At the last committee meeting it was suggested that overly delayed projects be removed from the TIP project sheet and placed on a contingency list for future consideration when monies may become available.

TxDOT requires all agencies to submit a newly revised TIP report adhering to the fiscal year restraint requirements by June 1, 2010. Committee members were asked to review their respective projects and work to resolve any differences between estimates which do not agree with TxDOT forecasts then submit to Ms. Pat Waskowiak. Ms. Waskowiak will present to the TAC Subcommittee and the TIP report will be presented as an action item in the next meeting on April 14, 2010. At that time, a draft TIP will be presented for approval by the Committee for distribution and public comment in May, 2010.

ECO-LOGICAL PROJECT

Mr. Jeff Taebel presented the new web-based mapping tool which will help identify the region's natural assets and assist in setting priorities for conservation. The system identifies various ecotypes which are prominent in our area and maps them into GIS polygons. Users will be able to access specific area information such as acreage, shape, ecological ranking values and other eco-system aspects. The program will also allow Users to set up potential project models by defining alignments in any direction and setting up buffer impact zones for initial analysis. The system will also be able provide summaries of accumulative impact of multiple projects on any buffer zones the user sets. The program is in the final stages of review and set to come on-line later this year.

BAYTOWN LIVABLE CENTER INITIATIVE

Mr. Ken Fickes presented a brief overview of Baytown's Livable Communities Initiative Master Plan. The City of Baytown is working to provide a more definitive budget summary by the end of summer. The Committee received a copy of the Executive Summary Master Plan which can also be access on-line at www.harriscounty.com.

Ms. Lynn Spencer gave a brief background of identified community needs and status of revitalization efforts. The Committee was informed that the City of Baytown will move forward with the Texas Avenue implementation of a trolley bus or similar transit service beginning with Phase I of the master plan. An Amendment to Phase I will be presented to TAC for placement on the locally funded section of the TIP.

TxDOT FINANCIAL FORECASTS FOR 2011-2035

Mr. Ashby Johnson gave a brief background of the Committee formed by TxDOT to explore ways to estimate state and federal revenue that could be consistently used by all MPOs throughout the state.

Mr. Johnson reported that the current 2035 Regional Transportation Plan has a long-term funding shortfall total of \$7.3 Billion Dollars based on current state and federal revenue estimates. Revenue forecasts for the future are not expected to improve unless changes in business practices occur such as increases in vehicle registration fees, indexing of the motor fuels tax or the implementation of new taxes or fees. At this time, options for closing the funding shortfall in the 2035 RTP will mean removal of projects from the plan. A preliminary review indicates conformity requirements should be able to be satisfied.

REPORT ON STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

H-GAC

TxDOT Mr. Rakesh Tripathi, P.E. gave a brief statement regarding two major planning efforts by TxDOT. The Texas Statewide Transportation Plan, a 25 year plan, will have its kick off meeting in Austin, TX today, March 17, 2010. The first Texas Transportation Plan public meeting will take place in early May, 2010. Additionally, TxDOT will initiate a Texas Rail Plan which will combine existing regional plans and encompass the state plan.

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.

CITY OF SUGAR LAND

There was no status report from the City of Sugarland.

METRO

There was no status report from METRO.

RAQPC

There was no status report from RAQPC.

BRAZORIA COUNTY

There was no status report from Brazoria County.

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

- The ITS America 20th Annual Meeting & Exposition will be held at the George R. Brown Center on May 3rd – 5th, 2010. Speakers will include Mayor Annise Parker, Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, President and CEO Frank Wilson of Metro, Executive Director of TxDOT Amadeo Saenz Jr., and President of TransCore, John Simler.
- TXDOT will have a 2010 Program Call for projects to be developed under the Pass-Through Finance Program. Deadline for submission of proposals is 3:00 p.m. on May 11, 2010.
- H-GAC will host its annual Fresh Air Friday event in Jones Plaza, 600 Louisiana Street, on Friday, April 16, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Speakers will include Emcee Jennifer Reyna, KPRC Channel 2, Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, Council Member Anne Clutterbuck, Executive Director of H-GAC Jack Steele, and The Stephen Richard Trio Band.
- Next TPC Meeting – March 26, 2010, 9:30 a.m., Conf. Room A
- Next TAC Meeting – April 15, 2010, 10:00 a.m., Conf. Room A

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gafrick adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 11:40 a.m.

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

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2010 MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

03/17/10 at 10:00 a.m.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	<u>ALTERNATE</u>	<u>PRESENT *</u>
Sarah Benavides, P.E.	City of Pasadena	(Vacant)	___
Don Brandon, P.E.	Chambers County	Gary Nelson	___
Kelly Carpenter, AICP	City of Baytown	Dick Carter	X
Don Carroll	City of Texas City	(Vacant)	___
Maureen Crocker	Intermodal Interests	Carol Lewis	X
Catarina Gonzales Cron	Environmental & Planning	Billy Cooke, P.E.	___
Perri D'Armond	Citizen & Business Interests	Bob Eury	X
David Douglas	Liberty County	Jimmy Sterling	___
<i>1st Vice Chair</i>			
Scott Elmer, P.E.	City of Missouri City	Valerie Ruda	X
Ken Fickes	Urban Transit	John Saavedra	X
G. Michael Fitzgerald, P.E.	Galveston County	Rod Shaut	___
<i>Chair</i>			
Marlene Gafrick	Environmental & Planning	Mike Kramer	A
D. Jesse Hegemier, P.E.	Fort Bend County	Ron Drachenberg, P.E.	X
Mike Hodge, P.E.	Smaller Cities	Pat B. McLaughlan, P.E.	X
James Jackson, P.E.	Intermodal Interests - <i>Ports</i>	Brenda Trevino, P.E.	X
Jeff Johnson, P.E.	Montgomery County	J. Ross McCall, EIT	X
James Koch, P.E.	TxDOT-Houston District	Rakesh Tripathi, P.E.	A
Mark Loethen	Intermodal Interests	Jack Whaley, P.E.	X

TAC Roll, continued
Wednesday, March 17, 2010

ATTACHMENT 1

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	Citizen & Business Interests	David Crossley	X
Luis Nunez	Smaller Cities	Robert Heineman, FAIA	___
John O'Malley	Environmental & Planning	Patricia Knudson Joiner	X
Gerald Roberts, P.E.	Brazoria County	Kevin Sherrod	X
<i>2nd Vice Chair</i>			
Yancy Scott, P.E.	Waller County	Orval Rhoads, P.E.	X
Paulette Shelton	Rural Transit	Vastene Olier	X
Kimberly Slaughter	METRO	Larry Badon	A
Jeff Taebel, FAICP	Environmental & Planning	Steve Howard	X
John Tyler, P.E.	Intermodal Interests	David Gornet	A
Patrick Walsh, P.E.	City of Sugar Land	Dale Rudick, P.E.	X
Jeffrey Weatherford, P.E.	City of Houston	Carol Ellinger, P.E.	X
Mike Wilson	Intermodal Interests	Diane Falcioni	___
Michael Worthy	City of Galveston	Rick Beverlin	X
Bill Zrioka	Intermodal Interests - <i>Airports</i>	Monica Newhouse	___

*** 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