

MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2010

9:30 A.M., CONFERENCE ROOM A

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Gafrick 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 30 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

Upon the call for discussion, Mr. Jeff Weatherford, P.E. noted a correction to the last name of the City of Houston's representative for primary member of the Transportation Demand Management Implementation Subcommittee. Mr. Weatherford provided the correction to staff.

Chairman Gafrick requested that the minutes be amended to reflect the correction. Chairman Gafrick also confirmed motions made from the floor regarding the amendment.

Mr. Billy Cooke, P.E. made a motion for approval of the Minutes of the April 14, 2010 meeting as amended and Ms. Kelley Carpenter, AICP seconded the motion. The Committee voted and approved the minutes as amended.

PRESENTATION ON DRAFT 2035 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) UPDATE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Pat Waskowiak provided a brief update on the draft 2035 RTP update activities undertaken by H-GAC staff. Ms. Waskowiak informed the Committee that TxDOT began the revisions to its financial forecasts in 2008. There was a drastic reduction in the funding estimate our region expects to receive from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) than what

was received in previous years. As a result, a 2035 RTP Update is required. The purpose of the update is to reconcile financial forecasts for the Plan with the new funding outlook per TxDOT. Subsequent minor updates will also be made to the information submitted by other agencies.

Ms. Waskowiak reported that the 2035 Update will stay the same as the 2035 RTP except for the financial constraint portion. The preliminary estimated shortfall is \$35-\$55 billion in funding over the life of the Plan. Ms. Waskowiak cautioned that the estimate is subject to change as staff is still working to develop a final number. A new conformity determination will also be required because the program of projects included in the RTP will change. Conversations with the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) have indicated that four (4) more years will be granted to develop a new regional transportation plan from the date the new conformity is approved.

Ms. Waskowiak referred to the meeting materials in discussing current efforts by staff, local counties and tolling agencies to update the program of projects for the plan and TIP. Ms. Waskowiak noted that the Montgomery County Parkway project was included in SB 792 but will not be added to the 2035 RTP. Ms. Waskowiak also briefly discussed a TxDOT Sponsored Projects list, Un-sponsored Projects/Smart Streets list, and Other Tolling Projects list. TxDOT staff provided comments and clarification on the TxDOT Sponsored Projects list.

Ms. Waskowiak presented and briefly discussed the development schedule for the 2011-2011 TIP and 2035 RTP. The presentation was concluded by question and answer with comments.

UPDATE ON DRAFT 2011-2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN (TIP)

Ms. Pat Waskowiak provided an update on the draft 2011-2014 TIP. Ms. Waskowiak informed the Committee that the 2011-2014 TIP was presented for release for public comment at the April TPC meeting. Several questions were raised by the TPC regarding toll projects which prevented release of the draft 2011-2014 TIP for public comment. Staff was directed by the TPC to provide answers to those questions. Ms. Waskowiak informed the Committee that the draft 2011-2014 TIP will be presented again for release for public comment at the May TPC meeting.

Ms. Waskowiak referred to the meeting materials in discussing changes made to the draft 2011-2014 TIP since the April TPC meeting. A request was made for the reconvening of the TIP Subcommittee to re-evaluate criteria and scoring value in the anticipation that a new call for a TIP is possible in 2011. Staff was in agreement that it was necessary to reconvene the TIP Subcommittee at a later date for this purpose. The update was concluded by a brief question and answer with comments.

FORT BEND TRANSIT UPDATE

Ms. Paulette Shelton provided an update of the recent transit activities in Fort Bend County. Ms. Shelton informed the Committee that Fort Bend County began efforts in Public Transportation with a Transportation Committee in 1998. This Committee included members of Commissioners Court and social service agencies. Commissioners Court later created a Rural Transit District and a Transportation Department.

Fort Bend County currently offers three levels of service that include Demand Response, Point Deviation, and Commuter or Park and Ride. The Demand Response service provides trips within Fort Bend County and into Harris County along the US Highway 59 Corridor. This service provides transportation to the Social Security office, Texas Medical Center, and the Veterans Administration Hospital.

Ms. Shelton informed the Committee that Fort Bend County will be implementing six (6) Point Deviation Routes made possible by JARC funding. These routes will operate in the urbanized area which is adjacent to Harris County and as far as the Richmond-Rosenberg area. This service transports low-income individuals to jobs and other employment-related services across county.

Ms. Shelton briefly discussed ridership, budget, capital projects, pick up locations, scheduling information, and history of the Fort Bend County Commuter Services. The update was concluded without questions or comments.

UPDATE ON REGIONAL GOODS MOVEMENT STUDY

Ms. Christy Willhite introduced the team of consultants working on the Regional Goods Movement Study. Ms. Willhite informed the Committee that the TPC approved \$2.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) or Stimulus funds for H-GAC to undertake the Regional Goods Movement Study. The Regional Goods Movement Study is a two (2) year study with the objective of determining projects that will improve freight mobility and safety in the region.

Ms. Willhite introduced Ms. Paula Dowell of Cambridge Systems, Inc. as the Consultant Project Manager and presenter of the Regional Goods Movement Study update. Ms. Dowell informed the Committee that freight is the region's economy in motion. Houston was recently named as one of the top 15 Logistics Hot Spots within the U.S. Over 240,000 manufacturing jobs depend on moving freight. Due to port development projects throughout the region, freight mobility and goods movement is anticipated to increase within the region.

Ms. Dowell identified each consultant team and their responsibilities to the Regional Goods Movement Study. Ms. Dowell also informed the Committee that the outcome of the

project would be a plan with implementable solutions. The plan will contain identifiable projects and funding sources. Public and private stakeholder involvement will include public meetings, public official meetings/interviews, private sector interviews and surveys, steering and technical committees, and an executive freight forum to promote dialogue to maximize the benefits of the goods movement and minimize the negative impacts.

Ms. Dowell informed the Committee that the Regional Goods Movement Study will also support the Cube Cargo Modal Development. Other upcoming activities for the goods movement will include public and private sector interviews, data collection, and development modal profiles. H-GAC will host a freight basics training on June 9th from 8:00-4:00 p.m. in Conference Room A. Ms. Dowell also informed the Committee that the target audience will be private sector stakeholders, planning staff from H-GAC and other jurisdictions within the region. The update was concluded by brief question and answer.

JOB ACCESS REVERSE COMMUTE/NEW FREEDOM CALL FOR PROJECTS

Mr. Kari Hackett informed the Committee that H-GAC will be issuing a call for projects for the Job Access Reverse Commute/New Freedom Programs. More information will be provided in an email notice. Staff will present recommendations for proposed projects to be incorporated into the TIP and planning process at the July TAC and TPC meetings. Over \$3 million is available in New Freedom funds which includes funding from FY 2008, 2009, and 2010. Approximately \$.5 million dollars of the New Freedom funding is subject to lapse in September if not utilized in a grant.

Mr. Hackett informed the Committee that approximately \$4 million is available in Job Access reverse Commute funding which includes FY 2009 and 2010. The evaluation team for the Job Access Reverse Commute/New Freedom Programs call for projects process includes members from TxDOT, H-GAC, and METRO. The Job Access Reverse Commute/New Freedom Workshop will be held on June 2, 2010 at H-GAC offices. The presentation was concluded without questions or comments.

NATIONAL TRENDS IN BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACTIVITIES

Ms. Gina Mitteco, H-GAC's Pedestrian and Bicycle Coordinator introduced Mr. Andy Clarke, Executive Director of the League of American Bicyclists as presenter of the national trends in bicycle and pedestrian activities.

Mr. Clarke provided an overview of the national trends in cycling, walking, and transit in urban and metropolitan areas. Mr. Clarke informed the Committee that federal investment in bicycle and pedestrian activities has doubled. It has proven to be a cost-effective investment that makes a big difference in the quality of life and livability in communities. Mr. Clark briefly

identified the benefits of cycling. Mr. Clarke also noted that elected officials around the country are taking a closer look at walking in combination with transit. Boston, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Portland, and Houston are now working together under the banner of the National Association of the City Transportation Officials to review the infrastructure changes needed to encourage and enable more bicycling. The presentation was concluded by brief comments.

REPORT ON STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

H-GAC Mr. Jeff Taebel, FAICP reported on a HUD/DOT/EPA Sustainable Grant Initiative. The grant is a partnership of the Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Large Metro areas will be eligible for \$5 million to conduct multi-jurisdictional regional planning. A listening session was held at H-GAC on May 7, 2010. Staff has met with the City of Houston and other organizations to discuss the benefits of the grant for the region.

Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP introduced Ms. Becky Blatnica, Program Manager for Long Range Planning to the Committee.

Mr. Johnson reported that May 21, 2010 is the City of Houston's "Bike to Work Day". H-GAC will be hosting a series of public meetings for the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan Update and the 2011-2014 TIP during the month of June. Refer to the website for more information.

Mr. Johnson reported that H-GAC will be hosting an Advancing the Choice Conference in the City of Pasadena. Refer to the website for more information.

TxDOT Mr. Rakesh Tripathi, P.E. reported that TxDOT held a public meeting on May 6th on the Long Range Plan. The next public meeting will be held on August 5, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Tripathi, P.E. reported that the TxDOT Planning Conference is scheduled for June 29-July 2, 2010 in Lost Pines, Texas. The Ports and Waterways Conference is scheduled to be held in September at South Padre Island. Refer to the TTI website for more information.

Mr. James Koch, P.E. reported that several entities are making requests to move letting dates. A September deadline is currently in place to expend ARRA funds.

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

There was no status report from Brazoria County.

HARRIS COUNTY

There was no status report from Harris County.

FORT BEND COUNTY

Ms. Paulette Shelton reported that a grand opening for the Texas Medical Center Service will be held on July 1, 2010. H-GAC will assist in the marketing of this event.

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 the next Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting will be held on May 21, 2010 and the next TAC meeting will be held on June 16, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gafrick adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 11:22 a.m.

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

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2010 MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

05/19/10 at 9:30 a.m.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	<u>ALTERNATE</u>	<u>PRESENT *</u>
Sarah Benavides, P.E.	City of Pasadena	(Vacant)	X
Don Brandon, P.E.	Chambers County	Gary Nelson	___
Kelly Carpenter, AICP	City of Baytown	Dick Carter	X
Don Carroll	City of Texas City	(Vacant)	X
Maureen Crocker	Intermodal Interests	Carol Lewis	X
Catarina Gonzales Cron	Environmental & Planning	Billy Cooke, P.E.	A
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	X
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.	A
Jeff Johnson, P.E.	Montgomery County	J. Ross McCall, EIT	A
James Koch, P.E.	TxDOT-Houston District	Rakesh Tripathi, P.E.	X
Mark Loethen	Intermodal Interests	Jack Whaley, P.E.	X

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

30 Voting Membership Present

16 Required Quorum