

MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 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 28 members in attendance; 16 are required for a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. James Jackson, P.E. made a motion for adoption of the Agenda and Mr. Scott Elmer, P.E. seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Clark Martinson made a motion for approval of the Minutes for the May 19, 2010 meeting and Mr. Mike Hodges, P.E. seconded the motion. The Committee voted and approved the minutes.

APPROVAL OF 2011-2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN (TIP)

Mr. Alan Clark provided an overview of the 2011-2014 TIP. Mr. Clark informed the Committee that it is a requirement that federally assisted projects receive approval from the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) through the TIP. An approved TIP allows the State and direct federal funding recipients to begin the process of receiving funds through grants or other funding mechanisms. On a statewide basis, Metropolitan TIPs in addition to projects from the non-metropolitan areas of the state are combined into a Statewide TIP (TIP) which is approved by the Texas Transportation Commission, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration.

Mr. Clark informed the Committee that the 2011-2014 TIP has been released for public comment with a 30-day public comment period. The 2011-2014 TIP carries forward those projects that were identified in the 2008-2011 TIP that were not funded. Due to the American

Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) and an unprecedented deflation in project costs, many projects were funded by other funding sources such as the Surface Transportation Program Metropolitan Mobility (STP-MM) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Programs.

Mr. Clark informed the Committee that in 2008-2009, staff requested fund transfers from the STP-MM and CMAQ Programs to the Transit Category. Some of those fund transfers were erroneously programmed against the letting cap for later years. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has been attempting to reconcile actual funds available to our region in STP-MM and CMAQ for 2010. It was determined that more funds were available than expected. Programming decisions were later made in February and March on how to utilize the available funding.

Mr. Clark referred to a letter to TxDOT in discussing the programming of funding for FY 2010 in the STP-MM and CMAQ Programs. Mr. Clark also referred to maps included in the meeting materials to discuss specific details regarding major projects in the TIP. Mr. Clark later informed the Committee of a proposed transfer of CMAQ funds in 2010 from our region to the Dallas-Ft. Worth area that will result in an additional \$7 million increase in the letting cap to be utilized. The presentation was concluded by question and answer with comments.

Mr. Jeff Weatherford, P.E. made a motion to forward the 2011-2014 TIP to the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) without recommendation for approval because the public comment period is still open. Mr. Scott Elmer, P.E. seconded the motion.

Chairman Gafrick accepted the motion and opened the floor for further discussion or comments by the Committee. The Committee further discussed the approval of the 2011-2014 TIP prior to the close of the public comment period. Mr. Clark informed the Committee that previous TIPs were recommended for TPC approval prior to the end of the public comment period.

Mr. Ashby Johnson, AICP confirmed that the TAC was faced with this dilemma in the past. Mr. Johnson also confirmed that as a result, staff requested TAC approval of the TIP pending no adverse public comment. Mr. Johnson offered the previous TAC recommendation as an option.

Chairman Gafrick confirmed Mr. Johnson's recommendation and opened the floor for further discussion of the motion and the recommendation. The Committee discussed the motion and recommendation further before the vote was called. A total of ten (10) members voted for the motion and fifteen (15) members voted in opposition of the motion. The motion failed. Chairman Gafrick entertained another motion from the floor.

Mr. James Jackson, P.E. made a motion to recommend the 2011-2014 TIP to the TPC pending no adverse public comment and Gerald Roberts, P.E. seconded the motion.

Chairman Gafrick accepted the motion and opened the floor for further comments and discussion. The Committee discussed the motion further and recommended that the motion be amended to recommend approval of the 2011-2014 TIP to the TPC subject to review of public comments by staff and TPC.

Chairman Gafrick entertained an amended motion to reflect the final comments of the Committee. Mr. James Jackson amended the motion to recommend approval of the 2011-2014 TIP to the TPC subject to review of public comments by staff and TPC and Gerald Roberts, P.E. seconded the motion.

Chairman Gafrick accepted the amended motion and called for the vote. A total of twenty-two (22) members voted for the motion and four (4) members voted in opposition of the motion. The motion carried.

H-GAC REGIONAL THOROUGHFARE PLAN UPDATE

This information item was deferred to the July meeting.

SH 6 ACCESS MANAGEMENT STUDY UPDATE

Mr. Noel Bowman provided a brief overview on the progress of the SH 6 Access Management Study. Mr. Bowman introduced Kurt Schulte of Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. as the presenter for the SH 6 Access Management Study update. Mr. Schulte informed the Committee that the project limits were from FM 521 to IH 45. The last public meeting will be held in mid to late August and the final report and recommendations will be presented to the community at that time.

Mr. Schulte provided a brief overview of the SH 6 corridor. Mr. Schulte identified the project partners and discussed the project goals, level of service, and crash rate comparisons. Public meetings were held in September 2009 and March 2010. A summary of public comments received from those meetings were presented to the Committee. Mr. Schulte informed the Committee that an additional public meeting is scheduled for August 2010. Mr. Schulte concluded the update with a brief discussion of the project recommendations. The presentation was concluded by brief comments.

REVIEW OF DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE 2010-2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Mr. Ashby Johnson provided a brief overview of the draft amendments to the 2010-2011 UPWP. Mr. Johnson referred to the meeting materials in discussing the list of draft amendments

to the UPWP that was approved in 2009. The UPWP is a 2-year document that covers planning studies and other activities that the MPO needs to undertake during that 2-year period. Approximately \$7 million per year is received in FHWA PL-112 Funds and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5303 Funds. These funds are used for planning studies, staff salaries, training, computers, and space rentals.

Mr. Johnson informed the Committee that the amendments presented were necessary to ensure that funding is reconciled in the budgets and to include study work that was not originally included in the UPWP. Mr. Johnson referred to the background paper included in the meeting materials to discuss the amendments in detail. The amendments discussed will be presented for TPC approval at its July meeting. The presentation was concluded by a brief question and answer with comments.

CLEAN AIR WORK PROGRAM FOR FY 2011-2014

Ms. Shelley Whitworth provided an overview of the Clean Air Work Program for FY 2011-2014. Ms. Whitworth informed the Committee that the Proposed Clean Air Work Program for the 2011-2014 TIP was included in the meeting materials for review. Ms. Whitworth identified and discussed the previous and current 8-hour ozone standards for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) region. Ms. Whitworth also presented a timeline for the new ozone standard.

Ms. Whitworth identified and discussed SIP commitments, Clean Air Action Programs, and Outreach efforts. Ms. Whitworth informed the Committee that H-GAC has been aggressive in obtaining private contributions for marketing and outreach efforts. The presentation was concluded by a brief question and answer with comments.

REPORT ON STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

H-GAC There was no status report from H-GAC.

TxDOT There was no status report from 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

 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 an official launch of the Texas Medical Center Park and Ride Services will be held on July 1, 2010.

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 June 23, 2010 and the next TAC meeting will be held on July 14, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

 Chairman Gafrick adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 11:43 a.m.

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

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2010 MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

06/16/10 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 | ___ |
| Don Carroll | City of Texas City | (Vacant) | ___ |
| Maureen Crocker | Intermodal Interests | Carol Lewis | X |
| Catarina Gonzales Cron | Environmental & Planning | Billy Cooke, P.E. | X |
| 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. | X |
| Jeff Johnson, P.E. | Montgomery County | J. Ross McCall, EIT | X |
| James Koch, P.E. | TxDOT-Houston District | Rakesh Tripathi, P.E. | X |
| Mark Loethen | Intermodal Interests | Jack Whaley, P.E. | X |

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|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----|
| 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 | 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 | (Vacant) | 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 | X |
| Patrick Walsh, P.E. | City of Sugar Land | Dale Rudick, P.E. | X |
| 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 | A |
| 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

28 Voting Membership Present

16 Required Quorum