

## **MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2011**

**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 28 members in attendance; 16 are required for a quorum.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Ashby Johnson addressed Chairman Gafrick to inform the Committee that the agenda was revised as indicated by the green sheets.

Mr. Scott Elmer, P.E. made a motion for adoption of the Agenda as reflected in the green sheet and Mr. Gerald Roberts, P.E. seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Patrick Walsh, P.E. made a motion for approval of the Minutes for the December 8, 2010 meeting and Mr. Mike Wilson seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

### APPROVAL OF SH 6 SOUTH AND SH 6/FM 1960 AND 529 ACCESS MANAGEMENT STUDIES

Ms. Christy Willhite provided a brief overview of SH 6 South and SH 6/FM 1960 and 529 Access Management Studies. Ms. Willhite informed the Committee that the SH 6 South and SH 6/FM 1960 and 529 Access Management Studies were conducted at the same time in addition to three (3) other corridors. SH 6 Corridor begins at FM 521 in Arcola through Manvel, Alvin, and Santa Fe and ends at I-45 South in Galveston. The SH 6 South Corridor becomes FM 1960 and begins from I-10 West and ends at 249 excluding the section of 290.

Ms. Willhite identified and discussed the goals for both corridors. Ms. Willhite informed the Committee that the public outreach process was extensive and included a steering committee, stakeholders, bicycle/pedestrian supporters, community associations, etc. The public outreach process for both corridors also included public meetings, public open houses and business open houses. Ms. Willhite informed the Committee that all were well attended.

Ms. Willhite also identified and discussed the short-term improvements, advantages and disadvantages for SH 6 /FM 1960 and FM 529. Ms. Willhite provided the website as a reference for specific details on both corridors. The presentation was concluded by a brief question and answer with comments.

Chairman Gafrick entertained a motion for approval. Mr. Clark Martinson made a motion for approval of the SH 6 South and SH 6/FM 1960 and 529 Access Management Studies and Mr. Gerald Roberts, P.E. seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

COMBINING OF TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT (TDM)  
IMPLEMENTATION SUBCOMMITTEE AND TCM/VMEP WORKING GROUP

Mr. Nicholas Williams provided a brief overview of the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Implementation Subcommittee and the Transportation Control Measures/Voluntary Mobile Emission Reduction Program (TCM/VMEP) Working Group. Mr. Williams informed the Committee that the goals and membership for both subcommittees were under review. It was determined that both committees should be combined to become more effective and efficient. Mr. Williams identified and discussed the activities of the 2010 TCM/VMEP Working Group and the 2010 activities of the TDM Implementation Subcommittee were reported by its Chair, Mr. Clark Martinson.

Mr. Williams informed the Committee that the 2011 activities for the combined subcommittee will include developing a list of cost-effective TCM and VMEP commitments to be considered for the upcoming SIP process. Mr. Williams added that both committees are currently developing a report to review available SIP commitments, cost effectiveness, and expected emission reductions. The proposed combined subcommittee will also continue with the TDM aspect to review and refine any current regional TDM strategies and develop new programs.

Mr. Williams also informed the Committee that the proposed combined subcommittee will include a total membership of eighteen (18). The proposed membership will include five (5) representatives from local government and appointed by the city or county, two (2) representatives from TxDOT, one (1) representative from TCEQ, two (2) transit providers, three (3) representatives from the private sector appointed by H-GAC, three (3) environmental, public interest or TDM professionals appointed by H-GAC, and two (2) H-GAC staff. This proposed

membership will include interested persons from the previous subcommittees. The presentation was concluded by a brief question and answer with comments.

Chairman Gafrick entertained a motion for approval. Mr. Clark Martinson made a motion to approve the combining of the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Implementation Subcommittee and the Transportation Control Measures/Voluntary Mobile Emission Reduction Program (TCM/VMEP) Working Group to form one (1) subcommittee and Ms. Paulette Shelton seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

#### PROCESS FOR APPOINTMENT OF TAC SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Ashby Johnson provided a brief overview of the appointment process for the seven (7) subcommittees of the TAC. Those subcommittees include Operations Task Force, Pedestrian & Bicycle, Regional Transit Coordination (RTCS), Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the now combined Transportation Control Measures/Voluntary Mobile Emission Reduction Program (TCM/VMEP) Working Group and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Implementation Subcommittees.

Mr. Johnson informed the Committee that nomination forms for each subcommittee will be forwarded to TAC members in February. Mr. Johnson added that the deadline for submittal of the nomination forms is February 28, 2011. After that time, the TAC Nominating Committee will meet to review nominations and develop membership recommendations for approval at the March TAC meeting. Each subcommittee Chairman reported on the 2010 activities and expected activities of their perspective subcommittees. The presentation concluded without questions or comments.

#### UPDATE ON TIP CALL FOR PROJECTS

By request of Chairman Gafrick, this item was presented after the agency reports to allow more time for presentation.

Mr. David Wurdlow provided a status update on the TIP Call for Projects. Mr. Wurdlow identified and discussed activities performed by staff to date on the TIP Call for Projects. Mr. Wurdlow informed the Committee that there is a negative STP balance for 2011 based on the latest available estimates from the TxDOT district. Mr. Wurdlow reported that there was a balance that rolled into 2011 but there were projects that carried over as well. It is expected that funds programmed for the US 290/610 Interchange will be fully consumed.

Mr. Wurdlow informed the Committee that 139 projects were received from over 31 sponsors. The actual request that was received was approximately \$672 million in federal funds including a match of nearly \$900 million. Mr. Wurdlow provided a breakdown of the submittals

by project types. Mr. Wurdlow reported that there were strong responses on Bike/Ped and Livable Centers Initiatives (LCI) projects but Roadway projects had the strongest response.

Mr. Wurdlow discussed the review process which includes an evaluation criteria based on 2008-2011 TIP criteria. Minor adjustments were made to the evaluation criteria that included input from the Operations Task Force and Pedestrian & Bicycle Subcommittee. Mr. Wurdlow also identified and discussed in detail Project Readiness deadlines, Preliminary Evaluation Results, Benefits/Costs Analysis, and Outstanding Funding Issues.

Mr. Wurdlow also presented a revised schedule for the 2011-2014 TIP process. The review process of the draft selections is underway and will be followed by TPC approval of the final selections in February or March. The presentation was concluded by question and answer with comments.

#### REPORT ON STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

H-GAC Ms. Becky Blatnica provided a brief update on the 2035 RTP Update. Ms. Blatnica informed the Committee that the 2035 RTP Update was approved by the TPC in October 2010. It was submitted with the Conformity Analysis Finding to TxDOT and FHWA for review. Staff has been working with FHWA on comment responses and anticipates an approval soon.

Ms. Shelley Whitworth reported that H-GAC has issued a Request for Projects for the Commuter and Transit Services Pilot Program. Approximately \$7.4 million is available in CMAQ funding for this project through October 2013. As a requirement, transit buses used for this project must meet the 2010 standard in order to be able to document sufficient emission reductions for these plans. Copies of the preliminary application were made available for review.

Ms. Shelley Whitworth also reported on the 2010 Air Quality Reference Guide and the Executive Summary for our region. Ms. Whitworth informed the Committee that the Regional Air Quality Planning Committee (RAQPC) worked to develop and update the Air Quality Reference Guide and the Executive Summary. These documents were designed for citizens in the region to better understand air quality, criteria of pollutants, and current status of ozone nonattainment in the region.

Mr. Ashby Johnson provided a brief legislative update. Mr. Johnson reported that the President signed an extension of the current Federal Transportation Bill. That extension was signed at current funding levels and will take us through March 4, 2011. There is interest and activity but other national issues in the forefront have taken priority.

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.

CITY OF SUGAR LAND

                  Mr. Patrick Walsh, P.E. reported that the City of Sugar Land is reviewing all modes of transportation in its Comprehensive Mobility Plan. Staff is developing preliminary recommendations which will be presented for public input at a public meeting to be held on January 12, 2011 at Sugar Land City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

BRAZORIA COUNTY

                  There was no status report from Brazoria County.

HARRI COUNTY

                  There was no status report from Harris County.

HARRIS COUNTY TOLL ROAD AUTHORITY

                  Mr. John Tyler, P.E. reported that Commissioners Court approved Mr. Art Storey to inform TxDOT that Harris County primacy would be rescinded for the Grand Parkway. Mr. Tyler informed the Committee that it was another step in the process of Senate Bill 792 that was authorized in 2007. Primacy was set up by the legislature to allow tolling entities the opportunity to do projects that were identified in their region.

FORT BEND COUNTY

                  Mr. D. Jess Hegemier, P.E. reported that Fort Bend County has made initiatives to take primacy on Segment D. Fort Bend County is proceeding with completing Segment D.

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. Ashby Johnson announced that election of 2011 Officers for the TAC will take place next month. Mr. Johnson also informed the Committee that the January meeting will be the last meeting with Marlene Gafrick as Chairman of TAC. On behalf of staff, Mr. Johnson expressed gratitude for the steady leadership during uncertain times.

Chairman Gafrick also announced that the next Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting will be held on January 28, 2011 and the next TAC meeting will be held on February 16, 2011.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gafrick adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 11:44 a.m.

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

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2011 MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

01/12/11 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.	___
Perri D'Armond	Citizen & Business Interests	Bob Eury	X
David Douglas	Liberty County	Jimmy Sterling	___
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair</i>			
Scott Elmer, P.E.	City of Missouri City	Valerie Ruda Martin	X
Ken Fickes	Urban Transit	John Saavedra	X
G. Michael Fitzgerald, P.E.	Galveston County	Rod Shaut	X
<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	___
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.	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	A
John O'Malley	Environmental & Planning	Patricia Knudson Joiner	A
Gerald Roberts, P.E.	Brazoria County	(Vacant)	X
<u>2<sup>nd</sup> 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	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	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

28 Voting Membership Present

16 Required Quorum