

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

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011**

**9:30 A.M., CONFERENCE ROOM A**

### INTRODUCTIONS

Vice Chairman Yancy Scott, P.E. called the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:36 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 29 members in attendance; 16 are required for a quorum.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were presented by Ms. Robin Holzer representing the Citizens' Transportation Coalition (CTC) and Ms. Catherine Burst representing the Houston Parks Board.

Ms. Holzer provided comments on TAC Agenda Item-7a Proposed resolution recommending funding allocations for STP-MM and CMAQ programming in the 2011-2014 TIP. Ms. Holzer commented on the importance of STP-MM and CMAQ funding to bicycle paths, sidewalks, Livable Centers Studies, implementation projects, and transit support in the region. Ms. Holzer also commented on the CTC's concerns regarding the funding options recommended by the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) Officers. Ms. Holzer requested TAC support in creating an Option 5 for a different allocation that will increase the region's investment in alternative transportation, specifically bicycle and pedestrian projects, Livable Centers, and transit support. Ms. Holzer also offered comments supporting an allocation of 55% of remaining funds towards the Mobility Category.

Ms. Burst informed the Committee that the Houston Parks Board Local Government Corporation is authorized under the Texas Transportation Corporation Act Chapter 431. Ms. Burst also informed the Committee that the Houston Parks Board has an interest in planning and building trails throughout Houston. Ms. Burst requested TAC support to allocate 14.6% or \$79,800,000 million of available CMAQ and STP-MM funding for alternative modes projects which is based on the 2008-2010 Historic Funding allocations. Ms. Burst commented on Houston's progress in planning and building an infrastructure system to support its population and economic growth and the creation of a diversified transportation system.

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Vice Chairman Yancy Scott, P.E. entertained a motion for adoption of the agenda as presented.

Ms. Maureen Crocker addressed Vice Chairman Yancy Scott, P.E. in commenting on open meetings requirements. Ms. Crocker informed the Committee that the agenda was not posted and requested discussion by staff on open meetings requirements.

Mr. Alan Clark discussed open meetings requirements as they pertain to the TAC. Mr. Clark informed the Committee that the TAC is an advisory committee and not a policymaking group such as the TPC. Mr. Clark also informed the Committee that the TAC does not fall under the legal requirements of the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Clark added that TAC agendas are not posted at the Harris County courthouse, etc. in the same manner as TPC agendas. Mr. Clark concluded that the TAC is not restrained from approving the agenda as it was modified to reflect an additional action item in comparison to the agenda included in the first mailing.

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

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chairman Yancy Scott, P.E. entertained a motion for approval of the Minutes for the February 16, 2011 meeting.

Mr. John Tyler, P.E. addressed Vice Chairman Yancy Scott, P.E. in making a recommendation to revise the minutes to reflect “the last thirteen (13) miles...” in the agency report for the Harris County Toll Road Authority instead of “the last five (5) miles...”

Vice Chairman Yancy Scott, P.E. entertained a motion for approval of the Minutes for the February 16, 2011 meeting as amended. Mr. John Tyler, P.E. made a motion for approval of the minutes for the February 16, 2011 as amended and Mr. Jeff Weatherford, P.E. seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

#### APPROVAL TO EXPAND TAC SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Mr. Ashby Johnson informed the Committee that this agenda item was presented again due to a technical issue discovered at the February meeting. Mr. Johnson informed the Committee that previous subcommittee memberships exceeded the limit for voting members as listed in the bylaws. Mr. Johnson concluded in requesting TAC approval to expand memberships of the TAC subcommittees to seventeen (17).

Vice Chairman Yancy Scott, P.E. entertained a motion for approval. Ms. Kimberly Slaughter made a motion to approve expansion of the TAC subcommittee memberships to seventeen (17) and Mr. Mike Hodge, P.E. seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2011-2012 TAC SUBCOMMITTEES

Mr. Ashby Johnson informed the Committee that the TAC Nominating Committee met on March 7, 2011 to develop recommendations for the 2011-2012 TAC subcommittees. Mr. Johnson referred to the greensheet included in the meeting packet in discussing those recommendations.

Mr. Johnson informed the Committee that there were additional changes to the recommendations included in the greensheet. Mr. Johnson noted that the TCM/VMEP-TDM Subcommittee received a name change to the Transportation Air Quality Subcommittee. Mr. Johnson also noted that Mr. Ken Fickes was changed to a primary member representing Harris County and Ms. Snehal Patel with Harris County was changed to a primary member representing Environmental Interests on the Transportation Air Quality Subcommittee.

Mr. Johnson informed the Committee that the recommendations for the TIP Subcommittee would remain the same with additional representation for the City of League City. Mr. Johnson reported that Mr. Linc Wright will serve as primary member for the City of League City and Mr. Jack Murphy will serve as his alternate within the Local Government category. The presentation concluded with a request for TAC approval of the recommendations for the 2011-2012 TAC Subcommittees as presented.

Mr. Mike Hodge, P.E. requested TAC approval for additional representation for the City of Pearland for the following subcommittees.

**OPERATIONS TASK FORCE**

Ms. Andrea Broughton, P.E., City of Pearland (Alternate)

**PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Harold Ellis, City of Pearland (Alternate)

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Mike Hodge, P.E., City of Pearland (Alternate)

**TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Trent Epperson, City of Pearland (Alternate)

Following a brief question and answer with discussion, Vice Chairman Yancy Scott, P.E. entertained a motion for approval of the recommendations as amended. Mr. Patrick Walsh, P.E. made a motion to approve the recommendations for the 2011-2012 TAC Subcommittees as amended and Mr. Jeffrey Weatherford, P.E. seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

## REVIEW OF 2011-2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROCESS

Mr. Alan Clark provided an overview of the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process. Mr. Clark informed the Committee that the TPC deferred action at its February meeting on recommendations from its Officers on establishing allocation ranges among four (4) project types. Mr. Clark identified those project types as Mobility, Alternative Modes, Air Quality, and Planning Studies. Mr. Clark also informed the Committee that the TPC Officers requested that a workshop be held on March 25, 2011 at 8:45 a.m. prior to the TPC Meeting to discuss the allocation ranges.

Mr. Clark informed the Committee that a resolution was included in the meeting packet or their review. Mr. Clark added that the resolution could be used as a tool to communicate the consensus of the TAC to the TPC at the upcoming workshop. Mr. Clark briefly discussed the verbiage of the resolution and noted that it focuses on Option 4 based upon the comments received by some of the members of the Committee. Mr. Clark informed the Committee that the TPC Officers recommended Option 1 or Option 2 which emphasizes the need to prioritize funding for the Mobility category of projects. Mr. Clark identified and discussed the difference between the recommendations of the TPC Officers and Option 4. The presentation was concluded by a series of comments with discussion. The Committee did not reach a full consensus on how to offer feedback to the TPC.

Vice Chairman Yancy Scott, P.E. recommended that TAC members offer feedback to individual TPC members for discussion at the upcoming workshop. Vice Chairman Yancy Scott, P.E. also encouraged the Committee to take action on the agenda item or table it in order to proceed with the agenda.

Mr. Jeffrey Weatherford, P.E. made a motion to table the action item with a recommendation that individual TAC members consult with their TPC representatives on the topic, the minutes of this discussion be made available to the TPC, and TAC members participate in the workshop. Mr. James Jackson, P.E. seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

## TIP SUBCOMMITTEE STATUS REPORT

Mr. Gerald Roberts, P.E., provided a brief status report on the current activities of the TIP Subcommittee. A TIP Subcommittee meeting was held prior to the TAC meeting. Mr. Roberts informed the Committee that a general consensus was made at that meeting to support staff's recommendations on the methodology. Mr. Clark commented that TPC members will receive information on the TIP Subcommittee's evaluation of the methodology.

## REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY 2010 CENSUS RESULTS

Mr. Ashby Johnson addressed Vice Chairman Yancy Scott, P.E. in recommending that this agenda item be deferred due to time constraints and its importance to the discussions.

## STATUS UPDATE ON BLUETOOTH TRAFFIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

Mr. Jeffrey Weatherford, P.E. provided an update on the City of Houston's Bluetooth Traffic Information System. Mr. Weatherford informed the Committee that the project began with the pursuit of an application for Operational Testing to Mitigate Congestion grant application. The West Houston Advanced Traffic Management System (WHATMS) was submitted but was not selected. Mr. Weatherford briefly discussed the components of the WHATMS project, its project area, and costs per location.

Mr. Weatherford provided a comparison of the Bluetooth Traffic Information System and the Arterial Travel Time System. Mr. Weatherford briefly discussed how the Blue Tooth Traffic Information System works, its installation and benefits. The update concluded without comments or questions.

## REPORT ON STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

H-GAC Mr. Ashby Johnson reported on the legislative activities in Austin and Washington. Mr. Johnson briefly discussed HB 630, SB 161, and SB 1420. Mr. Johnson also discussed the President's 2012 budget for Transportation.

Mr. Jeff Taebel, FAICP reported on the Regional Sustainability Planning Grant. Mr. Taebel reported that H-GAC now has a contract HUD is also updating the memorandum of understanding with the 25 entities of our consortium. Mr. Taebel also reported that there will be a meeting on March 28, 2011 to allow local governments, non-profits, and private entities discuss their sustainability initiatives.

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

There was no status report from Sugar Land.

BRAZORIA COUNTY

There was no status report from Brazoria County.

HARRIS COUNTY

There was no status report from Harris County.

HARRIS COUNTY TOLL ROAD AUTHORITY

There was no status report from the Harris County Toll Road Authority.

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

Mr. Ashby Johnson announced that a public meeting will be held at H-GAC offices on April 16, 2011 on TIP Amendments. The public comment period will begin on March 21, 2011 and end on April 20, 2011.

Mr. Johnson announced that H-GAC's annual Fresh Air Friday will be held at 11:00 a.m. on April 8, 2011 in Downtown Houston Jones Plaza.

Mr. Johnson also announced that there will be a series of public meetings beginning in April on the Regional Goods Movement Study. The dates, times, and locations for those public meetings were included in the meeting materials.

Mr. David Crossley announced that a Livable Houston Meeting will be held at H-GAC offices on March 23, 2011 at 12 noon to conduct a census analysis.

Vice Chairman Yancy Scott, P.E. announced that the next Transportation Policy Council

(TPC) meeting will be held March 25, 2011 and the next TAC meeting will be held on April 16, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Yancy Scott, P.E. adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 11:27 a.m.

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



**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
2011 MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

**03/16/11 at 9:30 a.m.**

<b><u>MEMBER</u></b>	<b><u>REPRESENTING</u></b>	<b><u>ALTERNATE</u></b>	<b><u>PRESENT *</u></b>
<i>Chair</i> Scott Elmer, P.E.	City of Missouri City	Valerie Ruda Marvin	A
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman</i> Yancy Scott, P.E.	Environmental/Planning	John Isom	X
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair</i> Mark Loethen	Intermodal Interests	Jack R. Whaley, P.E.	A
<i>Immediate Past Chair</i> Marlene Gafrick	Environmental/Planning	Mike Kramer	X
Sarah Benavides, P.E.	City of Pasadena	(Vacant)	—
Don Brandon, P.E.	Chambers County	Tommy Bridwell	—
Kelly Carpenter, AICP	City of Baytown	Jose Pastrana	X
Don Carroll	City of Texas City	(Vacant)	X
Maureen Crocker	Intermodal Interests	Carol Lewis	X
Bob Eury	Citizen & Business Interests	Perri D'Armond	X
Ken Fickes	Urban Transit	Vernon Chambers	A
G. Michael Fitzgerald, P.E.	Galveston County	Rod Shaut	—
D. Jesse Hegemier, P.E.	Fort Bend County	Ron Drachenberg, P.E.	A
Mike Hodge, P.E.	Smaller Cities	Pat B. McLaughlan, P.E.	X

*TAC Roll, continued*  
*Wednesday, March 16, 2011*

**ATTACHMENT 1**

James Jackson, P.E.	Intermodal Interests - <i>Ports</i>	Brenda Trevino, P.E.	<b>X</b>
Jeff Johnson, P.E.	Montgomery County	J. Ross McCall, EIT	<b>A</b>
Stan Kitzman	Waller County	Orval Rhoads, P.E.	<b>X</b>
James Koch, P.E.	TxDOT-Houston District	Rakesh Tripathi, P.E.	<b>X</b>
Phillip Lujan, P.E.	TxDOT-Beaumont District	Steven Stafford, P.E.	<b>X</b>
Andy Mao, P.E.	Harris County	Charles Dean, P.E.	<b>X</b>
Clark Martinson	Citizen & Business Interests	Coletta Castleshouldt	<b>X</b>
Luis Nunez	Smaller Cities	Robert Heineman, FAIA	<b>X</b>
Rich Oller, P.E.	City of League City	Linc Wright, P.E.	<b>A</b>
Terence O'Rourke	Environmental/Planning	Billy Cooke, P.E.	___
Gerald Roberts, P.E.	Brazoria County	Michael Shannon	<b>A</b>
Paulette Shelton	Rural Transit	Vastene Olier	<b>X</b>
Kimberly Slaughter	METRO	Larry Badon	<b>X</b>
Jeff Taebel, FAICP	Environmental/Planning	David Crossley	<b>X</b>
John Tyler, P.E.	Intermodal Interests	David Gornet	<b>X</b>
Patrick Walsh, P.E.	City of Sugar Land	Dale Rudick, P.E.	<b>X</b>
Charlotte Warner	Liberty County	David Douglas	___
Jeffrey Weatherford, P.E.	City of Houston	Carol Haddock, P.E.	<b>X</b>

TAC Roll, continued  
Wednesday, February 16, 2011

ATTACHMENT 1

Mike Wilson	Intermodal Interests	Diane Falcioni	—
Michael Worthy	City of Galveston	Rick Beverlin	X
Bill Zrioka	Intermodal Interests - <i>Airports</i>	Carlos Ortiz	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

29 Voting Membership Present

16 Required Quorum