

MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2011

9:30 A.M., CONFERENCE ROOM A

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Elmer, P.E. 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 26 members in attendance; 16 are required for a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Elmer, P.E. entertained a motion for adoption of the agenda.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Elmer, P.E. entertained a motion for approval of the Minutes for the April 13, 2011 meeting.

Mr. Michael Worthy made a motion for approval of the Minutes for the April 13, 2011 meeting and Ms. Paulette Shelton seconded the motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

UPDATE ON LONG-RANGE TRANSIT ACTIVITIES

Mr. Edmund Petry, Manager of Environmental & Capital Planning for the Metropolitan Transit Authority (METRO) provided an update on the ongoing planning activities in coordination with H-GAC. Mr. Petry provided a brief overview of the North, Southeast, East End, University Light Rail Transit (LRT) projects, and the US 90A/Southwest Commuter Rail Project. The Committee was informed of the length of the rail lines, construction and estimated operation dates, estimated riderships, and the number of rail stations for each LRT project.

Mr. Petry provided a brief overview of the SH 288/Brazoria County, El Dorado, and Missouri City Park and Rides. Mr. Petry discussed the current status, planned amenities, next steps, and estimated operation dates for each park and ride.

Mr. Petry provided a brief overview of the High Occupancy Toll/High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV/HOT) Conversion Project. The HOT lane is a HOV lane with available capacity that can be used by Single Occupant Vehicles (SOV) for a toll. Mr. Petry informed the Committee that the HOV/HOT lane will be implemented in the IH 45S, US 59S, IH 45N, US 290, and US 59N corridors. Completion dates for each corridor will range from January 2012 to January 2013. Mr. Petry informed the Committee that these HOT lanes will be operational by transponders only. There will be no cash lanes for this project. The HOT lanes will be operated and managed so as to maintain an average speed of approximately 50 mph for users.

Mr. Petry provided a brief overview of METRO Vision-Long Range Planning activities. Mr. Petry informed the Committee that METRO is hosting a series of public workshops to discuss the future of transit in the region. The goal of the workshops is to gain a better understanding of area public transit needs and encourage input from diverse communities to help meet those needs. Mr. Petry also identified and discussed the current status and next steps for the METRO Vision. The presentation was concluded by question and answer with comments.

UPDATE ON THE REGIONAL COORDINATED TRANSIT PLAN

Mr. Kari Hackett provided a brief update on the development of the Updated Regional Coordinated Transit Plan for the Gulf Coast region. Mr. Hackett informed the Committee that the Updated Regional Coordinated Transit Plan is part of a statewide effort.

Mr. Hackett discussed a conceptual layout for the Regional Transit Coordination Plan and informed the Committee that it should be included as part of the update to the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The Updated Regional Coordination Transit Plan includes local resources and transit-related needs but is not yet available for public review and comment. Mr. Hackett informed the Committee that a new plan will be developed in coordination with the Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee.

Mr. Hackett also identified and discussed the major components of the update and the next steps. Mr. Hackett informed the Committee that Regional Transit Coordination Plan covers the Transportation Management Area (TMA) and the rural counties or the 13-county region. Mr. Hackett reported that transit-related needs and the needs of special needs groups were addressed as part of the plan. Public information efforts include the development of Regional Transit Services Guides for each county in the region. These guides are available to health and human services agencies and transit providers in the region.

Mr. Hackett discussed the growth patterns in various counties within the region. Mr. Hackett also identified and discussed funding sources at state and federal levels. The presentation was concluded by brief comments.

REVIEW OF THE COLORADO VALLEY TRANSIT DISTRICT PLAN

Ms. Vastene Olier, Director for the Colorado Valley Transit District (CVTD) provided a brief summary of the CVTD Sub-regional Transit Plan. Ms. Olier informed the Committee that the CVTD began providing transit services in 1986. The CVTD serves Austin, Colorado, Waller, and Wharton Counties and provides a demand responsive and deviated fixed route services between and within those counties.

Ms. Olier identified HDR, Inc. as the consultant team for the Colorado Valley Transit District Sub-Regional Service Planning & Coordination Study. Ms. Olier informed the Committee that the purpose of the study was to evaluate existing conditions within the CVTD service area, identify sustainable funding sources, and propose new transit alternatives for future implementation. A series of stakeholder meetings were held in the service area to evaluate existing CVTD services in order to plan for population growth and evolving needs.

Ms. Olier informed the Committee that the continuation of a rural transit system is largely dependent upon federal and state funds. Ms. Olier identified and discussed the short- and long-term recommendations. Ms. Olier discussed a summary of annual ridership and cost estimates for the service area. The presentation concluded with a brief question and answer with comments.

OTHER TRANSIT ACTIVITIES

Mr. James Hollis of Connect Transit provided a brief update on the transit activities of the Gulf Coast Center's transportation program. Mr. Hollis provided handouts for review by the Committee prior to his presentation.

Mr. Hollis informed the Committee that the Gulf Coast Center operates a transportation program known as Connect Transit. Connect Transit provides a demand response service in Galveston and Brazoria Counties. Mr. Hollis reported that Connect Transit was awarded the Outstanding Rural Transit System in Texas for its work during Hurricane Ike. Connect Transit also received an award of achievement from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the Texas City/La Marque and Lake Jackson/Angleton areas for the highest percentage growth in transit ridership in Texas for FY 2008. Mr. Hollis discussed Connect Transit's current and proposed projects for 2012. The presentation concluded with a brief question and answer.

FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Ashby Johnson addressed Chairman Elmer, P.E. to inform the Committee that the presentation for Phase II of the Regional Transit Framework Study as indicated in the background paper for agenda item five (5) would be presented at the July meeting.

Ms. Paulette Shelton addressed Chairman Elmer, P.E. in requesting a presentation on the bills tracked in the 82nd Texas Legislative session for the July meeting.

Mr. Johnson requested a presentation by Mr. Patrick Walsh, P.E. on the City of Sugar Land's Mobility Plan for the July meeting.

REPORT ON STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

H-GAC Mr. Ashby Johnson reported that H-GAC in conjunction with the TxDOT-Houston District hosted a joint public meeting on amendments to the 2011-2014 TIP on June 8, 2011. The public comment period for that TIP amendment is in place and will end at 5:00 p.m. on June 17, 2011.

Mr. Johnson reported that a public meeting on the Colorado Valley Transit District Sub-Regional Service Planning & Coordination Study is scheduled for June 17, 2011 in Brookshire, Texas.

Mr. Johnson reported that project evaluations and scoring has been completed for the Call for Projects. An email was transmitted to project sponsors concerning their TIP project submittals on June 13, 2011. Questions or concerns should be submitted to staff within 30 days.

Mr. Johnson reported that H-GAC is hosting a public meeting on the 2012-2013 UPWP at 5:30 p.m. on June 29, 2011 at H-GAC offices, Conference Room A.

Mr. Johnson reported that H-GAC will continue the Brown Bag Series on June 20, 2011 at 12 noon with a presentation on "Rough Proportionality". The luncheon will be held at H-GAC offices in Conference Room A.

TxDOT Mr. Rakesh Tripathi, P.E. reported on the recent legislative session that will affect planning activities in the region. Mr. James Koch provided clarification on legislation concerning funding for highway projects.

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 the City of 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.

BRAZORIA COUNTY TOLL ROAD AUTHORITY

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

TCEQ

There was no status report from TCEQ.

FUTURE BUSINESS

Future presentations to the Committee are scheduled to include the Regional Transit Framework Study, TxDOT's Legislative Update on the Sunset Bill, and the City of Sugar Land's Mobility Plan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Elmer, P.E. announced that the next Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting will be held June 24, 2011 and the next TAC meeting will be held on July 13, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Elmer, P.E. adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 10:50 a.m.

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

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2011 MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

06/15/11 at 9:30 a.m.

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

James Koch, P.E.	TxDOT-Houston District	Rakesh Tripathi, P.E.	X
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	Coletta Castleshouldt	X
Luis Nunez	Smaller Cities	Robert Heineman, FAIA	X
Rich Oller, P.E.	City of League City	Linc Wright, P.E.	___
Terence O'Rourke	Environmental/Planning	Billy Cooke, P.E.	___
Gerald Roberts, P.E.	Brazoria County	Michael Shannon	X
Paulette Shelton	Rural Transit	Vastene Olier	X
Kimberly Slaughter	METRO	Larry Badon	A
Jeff Taebel, FAICP	Environmental/Planning	David Crossley	A
John Tyler, P.E.	Intermodal Interests	David Gornet	A
Patrick Walsh, P.E.	City of Sugar Land	Dale Rudick, P.E.	X
Charlotte Warner	Liberty County	David Douglas	___
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 - Airports	Carlos Ortiz	___

* 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

26 Voting Membership Present

16 Required Quorum