

**MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL
FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON TRANSPORTATION
MANAGEMENT AREA**

DATE: Friday, March 26, 2010

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Houston-Galveston Area Council, 3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor
Conference Room A, Houston, Texas 77027

Chairman James Patterson called the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

Secretary Tom Reid announced that there was a quorum; 14 members comprise a quorum. A quorum was declared present as recorded on the Roll Call included with these Minutes as Attachment 1. Attachment 2 lists persons in attendance other than members or their representatives.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Kenneth Clark with Galveston County provided pamphlets in support of human space exploration. He is concerned about the President's 2011 proposed funding cuts for the Johnson Space Center and the economic impact it will have on the region. He encouraged everyone to contact congressional representatives supporting NASA's constellation program. For more information visit: www.goboldlynasa.org.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Secretary Reid made a motion for the approval of the March 26, 2010 agenda. The motion was seconded. The Council voted and approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2009 MEETING

Secretary Tom Reid made a motion for the approval of the February 26, 2010 minutes as submitted. 2nd Vice Chair Norman Brown seconded the motion. The Council voted and approved the minutes as submitted.

RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE 2008 – 2011 TIP
AND 2035 RTP

Mr. Alan Clark directed the Council to the green sheet provided; he noted there is additional funding largely due to projects that have been let to contract and have come in under the estimated amount. There is a short amount of time to incorporate these unobligated balances into projects in order to get them in the current year's letting schedule. If the funds do not get committed to projects in this year's letting schedule the consequence will be a loss of those funds to the region. He added that TxDOT's fiscal year ends in August 2010.

Ms. Patricia Waskowiak reviewed the proposed amendments for the month of March. She addressed the revision to Amendment #218 regarding CMAQ funding. She requested the Council's approval on the amendments that were provided as well as approval for the MPO Director to make administrative amendments as necessary to utilize any unobligated balances. She directed the Council's attention to Attachment 1 that listed several projects being considered for funding. She reiterated there is a short time frame to make the funding decision. The deadline is April 15, 2010 to be on the letting schedule.

Mr. Rakesh Tripathi requested that SH 146, at Loop 197, in Texas City, be added to the Attachment 1 list for consideration for possible funding. The bridge at that location is a safety hazard due to four lanes of traffic feeding onto a two lane bridge. Only half of the bridge was constructed due to funding constraints. The estimated cost for the project is \$8.2 million.

Judge Emmett asked if the list was prioritized and questioned the inclusion of the Intermodal Terminal Project for METRO. Ms. Waskowiak indicated the list first identifies projects already in the TIP with an existing CMAQ or STP MM funding commitment. The METRO Intermodal Terminal is one of the potentially fundable projects with an existing TIP commitment of STP or CMAQ funds. The last projects shown on the list represent other CMAQ or STP eligible projects in the TIP which currently have no CMAQ or STP MM funds committed to them.

Ms. Maureen Crocker stated that the Intermodal Terminal project had changed and there is not a clear understanding of how it will be implemented. Mr. John Sedlak replied that METRO is working on phases of the project and is looking to preserve the ability for the full build out of the Intermodal Terminal.

Chairman Patterson asked how projects such as the bridge project that Mr. Tripathi requested would be added if it had previously been dropped off the TIP. Mr. Clark clarified that the original project had been completed rather than removed from the TIP. The remaining two lane bridge segment, although part of the desired scope of work, was never added to the TIP due to cost constraints. TxDOT believes that the Federal Highway Administration will permit the addition of this second phase of the bridge to be added to the TIP if selected by the TPC for funding. Ms. Waskowiak stated that it was

not a project originally selected by the Council for STP-MM funding as TxDOT originally proposed funding through a different state funding category.

Commissioner Clark briefly addressed FM 646 and SH 87. In 2000, the County issued a bond to widen and reconstruct FM 646. The County has worked with TxDOT since that time to develop the project. The County also has a significant investment in SH 87 but needs additional assistance from TxDOT to complete work on the remaining segment.

Mr. Clark replied that, in the case of FM 646, TxDOT had determined it would not be able to complete necessary environmental work and gain environmental clearance in time for this project to be let this year (FY 2010). Mr. Delvin Dennis commented on continuing efforts to support funding needed for SH 87.

Judge Emmett recommended the last paragraph of the resolution be revised to include consultation with TPC Officers. With this revision, Judge Emmett made a motion for the approval of Resolution 2035-27-RTP. Council Member Sue Lovell seconded the motion.

The Council voted and approved the Resolution with the revision.

Ms. Waskowiak provided a brief summary of Agenda Item 6B – Administrative Amendments #217 and #221. The administrative amendments were an informational item and there were no comments and/or questions from TPC members.

OVERVIEW OF TXDOT REGIONAL OFFICE

Ms. Lisa Gregg, East Region Support Center Director for TxDOT, provided a presentation and update on the state's regionalization plan as authorized by the Texas Transportation Commission.

Ms. Gregg addressed a map, which depicted the four regional support centers for Texas and discussed the restructuring process that has taken place within TxDOT over the last two years. Regionalization is intended to improve operational efficiency, accountability and transparency (EAT) within TxDOT. She reviewed each area detailing the breakdown and closed by summarizing the Pennies to the Pavement examples.

Ms. Gregg introduced Ms. Elvia R. Cardinal, P.E., Assistant Director Project Delivery for the TxDOT East Region Support Center. Ms. Cardinal began her presentation by informing the Council the East Region was designed to develop the standard operating procedures and complementary Service Level Agreements for rural planning activities that would outline expectations for services provided. Ms. Cardinal reviewed the goals and reiterated the goal is to ensure transparency and accountability. By doing so there will be a streamline process, ensuring the best practices to the process, providing standardized and consistency for an open process and addressed the anticipated benefits and work sharing – “OneDOT”.

In closing, Ms. Cardinal briefly reviewed the MPO/Rural Planning process. She clarified that the TPC will continue working with the District Office in selecting projects that are a part of the TIP and that establishing the merits of and the projects selected for funding will remain the responsibility of this group. Once those projects have been selected the actual agreement itself will be prepared by the region support center.

This report was concluded with comments/questions and answers.

CATEGORY 2 PROJECTS FOR FY 2011 – 2020

Mr. Alan Clark provided an update on TxDOT's Metropolitan Area Corridor Projects (Category 2). Mr. Clark briefly addressed the funding estimate and asked if there were any questions on the material that was provided to the Council. The report was concluded with no comments/questions.

ECO-LOGICAL PROJECT

This item was deferred.

OVERVIEW OF BAYTOWN'S LIVABLE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Judge Ed Emmett requested to make a comment regarding the Baytown project. Judge Emmett commented, 32 years ago Baytown was redoing Texas Ave. to create a more business and pedestrian friendly area, he then asked what has changed in 32 years? Judge Emmett state no response was needed.

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

REPORTS ON THE STATUS OF TRANSPOTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

H-GAC A report of the stimulus program was provided. The projects that were previously on the contingency list under the stimulus program have been programmed out. A letter addressing the TxDOT 2010 Program Call for accepting proposals for highway projects to be developed under the Pass-Through Finance Program was provided. A calendar acknowledging H-GAC Transportation events was provided for the members.

Council Member Stephen C. Costello recommended that H-GAC staff create a resolution that would inform the Legislative delegation about the funding challenges facing the Houston – Galveston region.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman James Patterson adjourned the meeting of the TPC at 11:12 a.m.

Tom Reid, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council

TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC)
 FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON
 TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA
 March 26, 2010

ROLL CALL

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Baytown, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Brandon Capetillo Councilman <input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Stephen DonCarlos– Alternate	City of Baytown
Galveston, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael B. Hughes Attorney <input type="checkbox"/> Dianna Puccetti – Alternate	City of Galveston
Houston, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honorable Stephen Costello Council Member <input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Wanda Adams – Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honorable Sue Lovell Council Member <input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Brenda Stardig – Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Marcotte, P.E. Director, Public Works & Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Jeffrey Weatherford - Alternate	City of Houston
Missouri, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Elmer Director of Public Works <input type="checkbox"/> Valerie Ruda – Alternate	City of Missouri City
Pasadena, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Darrel Morrison Council Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Benavides, P.E. – Alternate	City of Pasadena
Sugar Land, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honorable Jacqueline Baly Chaumette Council Member <input type="checkbox"/> Donald Smithers - Alternate	City of Sugar Land
Texas, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> Doug Kneupper City Engineer <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant – Alternate	City of Texas City

ATTACHMENT 1

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Brazoria County	<u> X </u> Honorable Matt Sebesta Commissioner <u> </u> Donald Payne – Alternate	Brazoria County
Brazoria County	<u> X </u> Honorable Tom Reid Secretary <u> </u> Modesto Mundo – Alternate	Brazoria County
Chambers County	<u> X </u> Honorable Don Brandon, P.E. County Engineer <u> </u> Gary Nelson – Alternate	Chambers County
Fort Bend County	<u> X </u> Honorable James Patterson County Commissioner <u> </u> Paulette Shelton – Alternate	Fort Bend County
Galveston County	<u> X </u> Honorable Kenneth Clark County Commissioner <u> </u> Mike Fitzgerald – Alternate	Galveston County
Harris County	<u> X </u> Honorable Ed Emmett County Judge <u> </u> Richard Zientek – Alternate	Harris County
Harris County	<u> X </u> Arthur L. Storey Jr., P.E. Executive Director/County Engineer <u> </u> Jackie Freeman, P.E. – Alternate	Harris County
Harris County	<u> X </u> Honorable Robert A. Fry Councilman <u> </u> Vacant	Smaller Cities
Liberty County	<u> X </u> Honorable Norman Brown Commissioner <u> </u> Honorable Phil Fitzgerald – Alternate	Liberty County
Montgomery County	<u> </u> Honorable Craig Doyal Commissioner <u> </u> Mark J. Mooney, P.E. – Alternate	Montgomery County
Montgomery County	<u> </u> Honorable Larry Calhoun Council Member <u> </u> Honorable Jay Ross Martin – Alternate	Smaller Cities

ATTACHMENT 1

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Waller County	<u> X </u> Orval Rhoads, P.E. County Engineer <u> </u> Yancy Scott, P.E. – Alternate	Waller County
Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority	<u> </u> Frank Wilson President and CEO <u> X </u> John Sedlak – Alternate	Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority
Houston-Galveston Area Council	<u> X </u> Steve Howard Chief Operating Officer <u> </u> Jack Steele – Alternate	H-GAC
TxDOT	<u> X </u> Delvin Dennis District Engineer <u> </u> Michael W. Alford, P.E. – Alternate	TxDOT Houston District
TxDOT	<u> X </u> Randall “Randy” Redmond, P.E. District Engineer <u> </u> Phillip Lujan, P.E. – Alternate	TxDOT Beaumont District
Port of Houston Authority	<u> </u> Alec Dreyer Director, Port of Houston Authority <u> </u> A.J. “Pete” Reixach – Alternate	Other Transportation Interest
Gulf Coast Rail District	<u> </u> Mark Ellis Chair of Gulf Coast Rail District <u> X </u> Maureen Crocker – Alternate	Rail Interest
	<u> 27 </u> Total Voting Membership	
	<u> 21 </u> Voting Membership Present	
	<u> 14 </u> Required Quorum	

**Persons Other Than Members or Their Alternates Attending the Meeting of the
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL
March 26, 2010**

Airiohuodion, Charles - TxDOT	Modglin, Amanda - Voller PR
Alcorn, Sallie - City of Houston	Moss, Bonnie - TERRA Associates
Alford, Mike - TxDOT	Nixon, Carol - Gunda Corp
Balli, Lamerto - HNTB	Rizzo, Joe - Cherry Companies
Battles, Wade - HALCROW	Rodriguez, Theresa - GHP
Beckendorft, Glenn - Waller County	Scarborough, Daphne - Mobility Coalition
Bednar-Wood, Carolyn - TxDOT	Shiraz Mansour - TxDOT
Bennett, Dan - METRO (retired)	Slaughter, Kimberly - METRO
Benz, Robert - TTI	Smith, Craig - TCEQ
Cardinal, Elvia - TxDOT	Spencer, Lynn - The Goodman Corp
Carpenter, Kelly - City of Baytown	Stout, Bob - Stout Gov. Rel/HNTB
Chamber, Spencer - POHA	Thomas, William Paul - City of Houston
Chessher, Bob - HDR	Tripathi, Rakesh, TxDOT
Chong, Ray - EHRA	Villegas, Gabriella - H-GAC
Clark, Alan - H-GAC	Walsh, Pat - Sugar Land
Crocker, Maureen - GCRD	Waskowiak, Pat - H-GAC
Dabney, Will - City of Houston	Weatherford, Jeff - City of Houston
Dean, Charles - Harris County	Wiersig, Douglas - JACOBS
Dickson, Peter - Architect	Wilkinson, Mike - Cobb Ferdley
Fickes, Ken - Harris County	
Garrison, Danielle - FBC	
Guidy, Jim - Guidry News Service	
Hackett, Kari - H-GAC	
Haller, Karen - City of Houston	
Hodge, Mike - City of Pearland	
Johnson, Ashby - H-GAC	
Johnston, Dave - Brown & Gay	
King, Lester - E&E	
Lewis, Raquelle - TxDOT	
Lujan, Phillip - TxDOT Beaumont	
Mao, Andrew - Harris County	
Milner, David - Dannenbaum	