

**MPO POLICY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2018
REGULAR MEETING, TDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
423 W. FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



Members Present:

Martin Heines, Chair; Nathaniel Moran, Edward Broussard; Carolyn Caldwell; Glenn Green; Frank Davis; Scott Taylor; Joe Carlyle; and Aaron Smith.

Others Present:

Vernon Webb, TxDOT; Heather Nick, Tyler Area MPO; Michael Howell, Tyler Area MPO; Brent Bradberry, Tyler Area MPO; Bill Hicks, Halff Associates.

Martin Heines called the meeting to order at 2:12 pm.

Minutes:

The minutes from the September 28, 2017 Transportation Policy Committee meeting were presented for approval.

Joe Carlyle moved, seconded by Frank Davis, to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Public Hearings:

1. Discussion and Action: Consider approving amendments to the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)

Mr. Howell presented the proposed amendments to the 2017-2020 TIP which involves the addition of a TxDOT Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TASA) grant awarded to the City of Tyler for the Bike Stripe Program.

Mr. Howell stated that the Bike Stripe Program is for approximately 56-miles of bike lane striping on City of Tyler roadways. This project has a cost of just over one million dollars and requires a 20% local match and the remaining 80% coming from the grant. The exact location and routes of the bike striping have not been finalized but Peter Eng, City of Tyler Traffic Engineer, and Dr. Mena Souliman, Professor at UT Tyler, are still developing the plan.

Scott Taylor moved, seconded by Nathaniel Moran, to approve amendments to the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

2. Discussion and Action: Consider approving the MPO adoption of Safety Performance Targets established by TxDOT

Mr. Howell presented the proposed Safety Performance Targets and stated that a provision of the Fixing Americas Surface Transportation (FAST) Act which required MPOs to establish and adopt

performance measures. These performance measures would establish benchmarks for specific metrics but will not affect funding if these performance measures are not met.

Initially, State transportation agencies were to adopt the performance measures first. Once the State transportation agency has adopted the performance measures, the MPOs could adopt what their respective State transportation agency has adopted or adopt their own. Mr. Howell stated that after discussing the performance measure with the local TxDOT office, the Tyler MPO has decided to adopt the safety performance measures that TxDOT has established.

Ed Broussard moved, seconded by Glenn Green, to approve the MPO adoption of Safety Performance Targets established by TxDOT. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

3. Discussion and Action: Consider approving the MPO adoption of Transit Asset Management Performance Targets established by Tyler Transit

Mr. Howell presented the proposed Transit Asset Management Performance Targets. Similar to the safety performance targets, the MPOs can the transit providers performance targets or adopt their own. Since Tyler Transit has already adopted a Transit Asset Management Plan, the Tyler Area MPOs recommendation is to adopt the Tyler Transit Asset Management Plan and Performance Targets.

Joe Carlyle moved, seconded by Ed Broussard, to approve the MPO adoption of Transit Asset Management Performance Targets established by Tyler Transit.

4. Discussion and Action: Consider accepting the MPO Grading Committee's recommended firm for performing work related to the development of an Active Transportation Plan

A Request For Qualifications for the Active Transportation Plan was posted on the MPO website on December 8, 2017. The deadline for submitting was January 5, 2018 and the staff received three responses. The firms which responded were:

- Toole Design Group
- HALFF Associates
- Alliance Transportation Group

On January 23, 2018, a five member committee was convened to grade the submittals. The proposals were evaluated according to the professional qualification of the team (40%), experience/availability of project manager and consultant team (15%), understanding of project scope (40%), special considerations (5%). Staff determined that, based on point totals, Toole Design Group would be invited to negotiate a scope of services and fee for this project. This project will be funded entirely with transportation planning dollars through the MPO's grant from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The next step will be for Staff to develop a contract for services with the selected firm. As the City of Tyler serves as the fiscal agent for the MPO, the contract will then be presented to the Tyler City Council on February 14th for approval of the contract.

Joe Carlyle asked about the total budget for the project. Mr. Howell replied that it was \$150,000. Ms. Nick added that the scope of the project was for the MPO boundary which includes most of Smith County.

Mr. Broussard asked where Toole Design Group was based. Mr. Bradberry replied that the project manager was based in South Carolina. Mr. Taylor added that Toole was in the process of producing a similar plan for Longview MPO. Ms. Nick also reminded that Committee that because the project would be funded by federal dollars that preference could not be given to local firms.

Frank Davis moved, seconded by Scott Taylor, to accept the MPO Grading Committee's recommended firm for performing work related to the development of an Active Transportation Plan.

Staff Updates:

1. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Nick presented the report stating that in December the MPO notified the Policy Committee that Jeff Austin, Texas Transportation Commissioner, had secured a large commitment from TxDOT for the widening of Old Jacksonville Highway from four lanes to six lanes between Loop 323 and FM 2813.

The commitment is 50 percent of the estimated \$52,300,000 cost to construct the project to be contributed by the State and the MPO will be working with the City of Tyler and TxDOT district staff to identify the revenue source for the remaining \$26.15 million needed to fund the widening.

When the funding source is identified, it will likely require updates to the short and long-range transportation plans. TxDOT expects to begin preliminary plans to for the project this spring.

Judge Moran asked if a timeframe for the project has been established. Glenn Green replied that an expiration time was not established but encouraged that the project move forward as soon as possible to reduce inflation costs. He also reminded the Committee that the funds were based on funding projections for Proposition 1 and 7 and could be subject to change.

Upcoming Committee Dates

Mr. Howell provided notice of the upcoming Technical Advisory Committee meeting on March 1, 2018 and the next Transportation Policy Committee meeting scheduled on March 22, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.