

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2018
REGULAR MEETING, TDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
423 W. FERGUSON ST. TYLER, TEXAS**



Members Present:

Martin Heines, Chair; Ed Broussard; Carolyn Caldwell; Aaron Smith; Gary Halbrooks; Frank Davis; and Scott Taylor.

Staff Present:

Heather Nick; Michael Howell; Brent Bradberry; and Samuel Brady.

Others Present:

Jeffrey Harmon, TxDOT; Kyle Kingma, City of Tyler; Leroy Sparrow, Tyler Transit; Robert Gill, Tyler Transit; James Torres, Tyler Transit; and Andy Mullins, Texas A&M Transportation Institute; and Tammye Fontenot, TxDOT.

Gary Halbrooks called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.

Minutes:

The minutes from the July 26, 2018 Transportation Policy Committee meeting were presented for approval.

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

Presentations:

1. Traffic Demand Model

Mr. Howell introduced Andy Mullins and Tammye Fontenot who presented the MPO's traffic model. Ms. Fontenot informed the Committee of the information that was collected to create the model and the steps taken to ensure it was valid.

Martin Heines joined the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

Ms. Fontenot discussed how the projects currently programmed for construction in the MTP were incorporate into the horizon year for the model which is 2045. She presented the forecasted outputs of the anticipated future traffic conditions assuming the upgrades were made. Ms. Fontenot asked for the MPO's concurrence with the outputs from the model and asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Heines asked if the project to widen Old Jacksonville Highway to six-lanes was incorporated into the model. Mr. Howell said it was not because the project became available after the model was turned over to TxDOT for review and validation. Ms. Fontenot spoke briefly about the tools to add a new project to the model.

Mr. Heines asked if the Toll 49 Lindale relief route was in the model. Mr. Howell replied that it was and noted the staff would continue to work with NET RMA to update the model as progress on Toll 49 continues to be made.

Mr. Taylor asked if we verified the forecasted counts where the boundary touches other MPOs. Mr. Howell replied that Longview MPO was the closet but the boundaries did not touch.

2. Tyler Transit Connecting Communities

Mr. Howell introduced Robert Gill who discussed recent updates, ridership, routes and upcoming projects being undertaken by Tyler Transit.

Action Items:

1. Consider approval of a contract with Alliance Transportation Group to perform work related to the five-year update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Mr. Howell presented the item stating that the MPO is required to update the MTP every five years, and the proposal was to hire a consultant to help with the update which would extend the planning horizon to 2045. He noted the budget for the project was set at \$150,000 and the staff received proposal from two qualified firms. He said a five member committee was convened to interview the firms and grade the submittals which determined that, based on point totals, Alliance Transportation Group was the top firm.

Mr. Howell stated that the Technical Advisory Committee recommended approval of the amendments by a unanimous vote.

Gary Halbrooks moved, seconded by Frank Davis, to approve the contract with Alliance Transportation Group to perform work related to the five-year update to the MTP. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

2. Consider approval of a new Metropolitan Planning Area Agreement between the MPO, the City of Tyler and the Texas Department of Transportation

Mr. Howell presented the item stating that this was part of the regular cycle of updating the planning agreement. He said that the current agreement was approved on August 13, 2014 and has an expiration date of September 30, 2018. The new agreement will expire on September 30, 2022 but includes a provision to allow the parties to extend the agreement by two years. This option can be exercised no more than two times.

Mr. Howell stated that the Technical Advisory Committee recommended approval of the amendments by a unanimous vote.

Ed Broussard moved, seconded by Scott Taylor, to approve the new metropolitan planning agreement. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

3. Consider approval of amendments to the FY18-19 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Howell presented the item stating that the large amount of Geographic Information System (GIS) work that has been related to the 2020 Census has exceeded the initial budget, and the GIS

work is expected to be necessary throughout FY 2019. He said the MPO initially programmed \$368,000 in expenditures in FY 2018, but the total funding received was \$588,652 which meant that the additional funds could be programmed without removing funding in other categories. He said the forecasted revenue for FY 2019 was also being increased, and the additional funds were being programmed into Task 2 and Task 4. The Task 4 funds are being programmed for additional work related to the development of Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Mr. Howell stated that the Technical Advisory Committee recommended approval of the amendments by a unanimous vote.

Scott Taylor moved, seconded by Gary Halbrooks, to approve the amendments to the FY18-19 UPWP. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Staff Updates:

1. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Howell presented the report notifying the Committee that progress being made for the Active Tyler plan.

2. Upcoming Committee Dates

Mr. Howell provided notice of the upcoming Technical Advisory Committee meeting on November 1, 2018 and the next Transportation Policy Committee meeting scheduled on November 15, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.