

**MPO POLICY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017
REGULAR MEETING, TDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
423 W. FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



Members Present:

Martin Heines, Chair; Nathaniel Moran, Jeff Warr; Edward Broussard; Carolyn Caldwell; Vernon Webb; Frank Davis; Carter Delleney; Joe Carlyle, Aaron Smith and Gary Halbrooks.

Others Present:

Daniel Taylor, TxDOT; Jeffrey Harmon, TxDOT; Michael Howell, Tyler Area MPO; Brent Bradberry, Tyler Area MPO; Casey Murphy, Smith County

Martin Heines called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

Minutes:

The minutes from the July 27, 2017 Transportation Policy Committee meeting were presented for approval. Gary Halbrooks moved, seconded by Jeff Warr, to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Public Hearings:

1. Discussion and Action: Consider recommending amendments to the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Mr. Howell presented the proposed amendments to the 2040 MTP which involve updating the forecasted project costs, project limits, and project scheduling to match the latest TxDOT forecasts for projects including: IH 20, FM 2493, FM 16, FM 2493, FM 756, FM 2964 and SS 364

Mr. Howell mentioned project to improve the ramps at the intersection of Highway 69 and Interstate 20 had been separated into three projects (CSJs) due to funding constraints. Because the projects are part of the overall project that had already been ranked, Mr. Howell recommended that all portions carry the initial ranking of the overall project.

Mr. Howell stated that a project had been submitted by TxDOT for consideration and ranking. The proposed project is to construct a grade-separated interchange at Highway 69 and FM 346, east of Flint. The TAC accepted the project and conducted a ranking exercise. The project scored seventh highest overall and has been added to the short-term project list.

Mr. Howell noted that the projected costs for widening FM 2493 (Old Jacksonville Highway) to six lanes and widening Highway 31 East to four lanes had dramatically increased and caused some of the long distance projects to be moved to the unfunded needs table. These projects include:

- Hwy 155 N from Hwy 271 to I-20
- Hwy 110 N from SL 323 to FM 2016
- Hwy 110 from SL 323 to Golden Road
- SL 323 Extension to Hwy 271

Mr. Howell also stated that two projects were proposed to be added to the Unfunded Needs category which were related to widening Interstate 20 to six lanes throughout the MPO boundary. He noted that these projects were a result of the IH-20 corridor study.

Mr. Howell said the amendments were presented to the Technical Advisory Committee met on September 7, 2017. TxDOT has some final requested amendments which included taking no action on funding changes for Spur 364 and changing the description for the project to widen Old Jacksonville to six lanes by moving the southern limits from Toll 49 to FM 2813. He added that the Technical Advisory Committee also scored the new project to construct a grade-separated interchange at the intersection on Highway 69 and FM 346. The project scored 7th highest overall and has been added to the short-term project list.

Joe Carlyle moved, seconded by Frank Davis to approve amendments to the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mayor Heines inquired about the bike stripe funding program. Cater Delleney stated that UT-Tyler is working on the project and that TxDOT has asked for more information and updated language in the resolution. Mayor Heines also inquired about Legacy Trails and Carter Delleney stated that TxDOT was currently providing comments on the plans and Brannon Corporation would be updating the plans based on those comments. It is scheduled for a November let date with construction scheduled to begin around January or February of 2018.

Staff Updates:

1. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Howell presented the report stating that Data Transfer Solutions has completed gathering the sidewalk inventory data and turned it over to the MPO staff for review. She noted that DTS collected data on all cities in the MPO boundary, but in some cases the trucks were denied the opportunity to collect the data in gated private subdivisions. The largest case of this is in the Hideaway community.

Mr. Howell gave an update on the Active Transportation Plan stating that MPO staff had been notified that TxDOT had purchased data from Strava, a bicycle and pedestrian tracking app. He stated TxDOT and Strava were currently working on consolidating the statewide data down to the TxDOT district level. Once this is complete, the staff would be able to access the information. Given this opportunity, the staff proposed to delay the kickoff for the Active Transportation Plan until the data was available which is expected to be no later than the end of the calendar year.

Upcoming Committee Dates

Mr. Howell provided notice of the upcoming Technical Advisory Committee meeting on November 2, 2017 and the next Transportation Policy Committee meeting scheduled on November 16, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.