

**MPO POLICY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016
REGULAR MEETING, TDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
423 W. FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



Members Present:

Martin Heines, Chair; Jeff Warr; Edward Broussard; Carter Delleney, P.E.; Frank Davis, P.E.; Gary Halbrooks; Aaron Smith;

Others Present:

Nick Page, TxDOT; Vernon Webb, Tyler TxDOT; Casey Murphy, Smith County; Tharani Devi Krishnakumar, Tyler Area MPO; Kyle Kingma, City of Tyler Planning; Justin Morgan, FHWA (via phone); Genevieve Bales, FHWA (via phone);

Mayor Martin Heines called the meeting to order at 2:07 pm.

Minutes:

The minutes from the June 23rd, 2016 Policy Committee Meeting were presented for approval.

Ed Broussard moved, seconded by Gary Halbrooks, to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Public Hearings:

1. Discussion and Action: Consider approving amendments to the FY16-17 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Kingma presented the proposed amendments to the UPWP following the changes approved by the State. The changes include:

1. Adding language regarding TxDOT conducting travel surveys and /or traffic saturation counts in the MPO region for use in the travel demand models and transportation analysis for pavement and geometric design.
2. Updating the 2017 funding tables to reflect cost of travel surveys.
3. Updating the Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee membership

Gary Halbrooks moved, seconded by Frank Davis, to approve amendments to the FY16-17 Unified Planning Work Program. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

2. Discussion: 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Projects List

Mr. Kingma presented the projects currently listed in the unfunded category of Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The Technical Advisory Committee had recommended the project FM 756 (Paluxy) from Jeff Davis Drive to FM 346 for consideration.

Mayor Heines discussed on the importance of these projects including the growth of traffic on FM 756 (Paluxy), South Broadway Avenue, Loop 323 and Old Omen Road. The potential

housing development and growth due to the forthcoming Whitehouse ISD will have a traffic impact on FM 756. Areas near the Midtown Development and University of Texas at Tyler were discussed to be taken into consideration as well.

Gary Halbrooks suggested on the possibility of a comprehensive study near employment centers and schools for a better understanding of traffic patterns. Vernon Webb pointed out that MTP demographic update contains information on growth areas, traffic patterns, and demographics. Jeff Warr mentioned that the Lake Placid Road and Toll 49 is extensively used.

Vernon Webb mentioned the possibility of feasibility study on South Broadway Avenue in the upcoming years. Mayor Heines expressed the desire to see the study done on South Broadway Avenue.

The three projects suggested by the TxDOT were approved by the Policy Committee. These projects include:

1. Widening of FM 2493 (Old Jacksonville Highway) from 4 lane to 6 lane divided principal arterial from Loop 323 to FM 2813.
2. Widening of FM 2964 (Rhones Quarter Road) to 4 lanes with flush median from Shiloh to FM 346.
3. Construction of 4 lane divided arterial for Earl Campbell Parkway from South Southwest Loop 323 to SH 31 West.

The Policy Committee was given an opportunity to add projects for consideration which will be scored by the Technical Advisory Committee.

3. Staff Updates

Mr. Kingma updated the committee on the special called joint TAC and Policy Committee meeting on October 13th to finalize the scoring of projects. This also kicks off the 30 day public comment period for the MTP amendment.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.