

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019  
REGULAR MEETING, TDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM  
423 W. FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



**Members Present:**

Martin Heines, Chair; Jeff Warr; Ed Broussard; Carolyn Caldwell; Gary Halbrooks; Glenn Green and Frank Davis.

**Staff Present:**

Heather Nick, Michael Howell, and Kevaughn Evans.

**Others Present:**

Jeffrey Harmon, TxDOT; Russ Jackson, Tyler Transit; Leroy Sparrow, Tyler Transit; Robert Gill, Tyler Transit; James Torres, Tyler Transit; and Kyle Kingma, City of Tyler.

**Martin Heines called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

Gary Halbrooks moved, seconded by Jeff Warr, to approve the minutes from March 28, 2019. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**Action Items:**

**1. Consider approving the draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) be submitted to TxDOT for review and comment**

Mr. Howell presented the item stating that the staff has proposed a range of work items and budget to satisfy the planning activities required to address federal and state planning regulations and to address regional planning needs. He noted that the revenue presented was forecasted and actual funding would vary based on economic conditions that could affect the work items listed.

The major planning items in the proposed work program include:

- 2020 - Complete the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Task 4.1)
- 2020 - Update the Master Street Plan (Task 5.1)
- 2021 - Perform a regional Transit Route Study (Task 5.2)

Mr. Howell mentioned that Tyler Transit had requested that the Transit Route Study update be completed in 2020 and introduced Robert Gill with Tyler Transit who gave a brief presentation on the purpose of the study. Mr. Gill said that purpose was improve bus timing and connections with other providers. Mr. Howell mentioned that City officials from Winona and Noonday had specifically mentioned the need for transit connections during the Metropolitan Transportation Plan outreach.

Mr. Heines asked if Smith County had developed a funding model to contribute to the local match needed to expand transit services. Mr. Warr replied that Smith County staff had looked at different scenarios, but he did not know the outcome of the research.

Mr. Heines mentioned that the City would be willing to sponsor the expansion of Tyler Transit services to the surrounding cities, but the cities would need to pay their fair share of the local funding required to support the service.

Ms. Caldwell asked if Go Bus could serve the area. Mr. Howell explained that there had historically been a connectivity issue because Tyler Transit's service area encompasses the City limits. Go Bus cannot serve in Tyler's urbanized area which is larger than City limits. This created a disconnect between the two providers. He mentioned that addressing this issue could be addressed as part of the Transit Route Study.

Mr. Howell said that the recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee was to perform the Master Street Plan update in 2020 and the Transit Route Study in 2021. He said the MPO had enough funding in the budget to perform both studies in 2020 and presented the Committee with three options:

1. Keep the Master Street Plan in 2020 and the Transit Route Study in 2021
2. Perform the Transit Route Study in 2020 and the Master Street Plan in 2021
3. Perform both the Master Street Plan and the Transit Route Study in 2020

Jeff Warr moved, seconded by Glenn Green, to perform both projects in 2020 and to submit the draft UPWP to TxDOT for review. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

#### **Staff Updates:**

##### **1. Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Nick provided an update on the development of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. She mentioned that the Technical Advisory Committee would be scoring the projects in June and that the results would be presented to the Policy Committee in July.

##### **2. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

Mr. Heines provided notice of the upcoming Technical Advisory Committee meeting on July 11, 2019 and the next Transportation Policy Committee meeting scheduled on July 25, 2019.

**The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.**