

# CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES – January 21, 2016

## 1. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM DETERMINATION

Meeting called to order by Mr. Sullivan at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Nueces County: Glen Sullivan, P.E., Chair; City of Corpus Christi: Jeffrey Edmonds, P.E.; City of Portland: Jamie Pyle, P.E.; Corpus Christi RTA: Gordon Robinson; Port of Corpus Christi Authority: David Krams, P.E.; San Patricio County: Commissioner Fred Nardini; TxDOT- CC: Paula Sales-Evans, P.E.

## 2. INTRODUCTION OF VISITING AGENCY OFFICIALS

Chairman Sullivan welcomed all in attendance.

## 3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

### A. Discussion and action to elect officers for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

MPO bylaws state: *The TAC shall elect a Chairperson and a Vice-chairperson from among its voting members. Such election shall be by a majority vote of that voting membership. Elections shall take place on the first month of the calendar year.*

Ms. Pyle made a motion to re-elect Mr. Sullivan as Chairperson. Ms. Sales-Evans seconded the motion. Ms. Sales-Evans made a motion to re-elect Commissioner Nardini as Vice-Chairperson and Mr. Krams seconded the motion. Both motions passed unanimously.

### B. US 181 Ramp Reversals south of Buddy Ganem Dr.

Mr. Pollack stated that the US 181 ramp reversal project south of Buddy Ganem Dr. remains a priority for the MPO. He reminded the Committee that the MPO is working with the TxDOT District - Corpus Christi (District) to explore various strategies to identify potential funding, including quantifying safety need.

Ms. Sales-Evans stated that the District is working with its traffic section to acquire traffic count data as a possible basis for submitting an application to the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), a core Federal-aid program.

Mr. Pollack commented that the District intended to include design of the ramp reversal project as part of the scope of the design of the US 181 overpass project at Kay Baily Hutchison Rd., which has been identified as the priority for FY 2016 and FY 2017 Proposition 1 funds, so as to advance project readiness for such time as funding is identified.

Ms. Sales-Evans stated that the District intends to contract consultants for design of the US 181 overpass. As part of the consultant's scope, the District intends to develop a separate set of design plans for the ramp reversals south of Buddy Ganem Dr.

Ms. Sales-Evans stated she would continue to work with her staff regarding updated traffic count data that might help quantify a safety need for the project.

## 4. DISCUSSION ONLY:

### A. FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Update:

Mr. Pollack reminded that Committee that staff introduced the impending two-year update of the TIP during the December TAC meeting. Mr. Pollack stated that because the MPO's Category 7 funds are committed to construction of the Harbor Bridge for at least the next three years, this TIP update affords a unique opportunity to take a big picture approach to longer-term project identification and prioritization. As such, staff have been taking a critical look at our long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) as part of an effort to prioritize projects for future TIP updates or for supplemental funding. Mr. Pollack stated that staff have been meeting with the District and City of Corpus Christi to update the scopes of projects on the MTP as the first step in this categorization and prioritization process. He stated that staff will be seeking TAC input on preliminary project categorization and potential performance measures over the next few months.

## 5. TAC MEMBERS' COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:

Ms. Sales-Evans informed the TAC that TxDOT has received the Record of Decision from the Federal Highway Administration for the Harbor Bridge project.

Mr. Vourcos stated that TxDOT has issued the first Notice to Proceed, which is limited to preliminary project work. Issuance of the second Notice to Proceed is expected in spring or early summer.

Ms. Sales-Evans stated that it might be beneficial for Mr. Joseph Briones of TxDOT to provide an update on the Harbor Bridge project; she indicated that she would inquire as to his availability for the next TAC meeting.

Mr. Sullivan questioned the status of the ramp reversal project on South Padre Island Drive (SH 358).

Ms. Sales-Evans stated that the Phase II of the Ramp Reversal project, eastbound Ayers to Airline, which is funded through Category 2: Metropolitan and Urban Area Corridor Projects will go to bid in July. The project will include concrete median barrier and traffic signal upgrades. The District is working cooperatively with the City of Corpus Christi on this project. Mr. Robinson requested the timeframe for project completion. Mr. Vourcos stated the project would take roughly two and a half years to complete.

Mr. Krams informed the TAC that the new Chairman for the Port of Corpus Christi Authority is Mr. Charlie Zahn.

Mr. Robinson informed the TAC that Mr. Curtis Rock is the new Chairman for the Corpus Christi RTA.

Mr. Edmunds informed the TAC that the Corpus Christi Office of the City Secretary is accepting applications for the vacant City Council At-Large seat.

## **6. STAFF BRIEFING:**

### **A. FY 2017 Transportation Alternatives Program**

Mr. Pollack reminded TAC members that the FY 2017 TAP Call for Projects will close on January 29<sup>th</sup>. He informed the TAC that some applicants had capitalized on the available courtesy review for completeness that closed on January 15. Mr. Pollack reiterated that staff are eager to support potential applicants with project scoping and refinement, and he stated that the MPO may have modestly more funding available for this year's TAP than had previously been anticipated.

### **B. Strategic Plan for Active Mobility**

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC that MPO staff have completed Phase I: Bicycle Mobility Plan, which prescribes various types of infrastructure along a 290-mile network and includes best practice recommendations related to education, encouragement and safety programs; public policy and code enforcement; and supporting infrastructure. Mr. Pollack reported that he is scheduled to present the Plan to Corpus Christi City Council on February 9<sup>th</sup> and would likely do the same in Portland in early March. He stated that, if members of the TAC were interested, he would provide a more detailed presentation of the Plan at a subsequent TAC meeting.

### **C. Regional Parkway PEL**

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC that the Regional Parkway Planning and Environmental Linkages Study is progressing well and is on track for summertime completion. The team completed environmental/contextual data collection in the fall (including generation of new high quality aerial images of the project area). Targeted stakeholder engagement began in December 2015 with key land owners/stakeholders and will continue later in January 2016, including meetings with member of the Island Strategic Action Committee and major Island property owners. The project team will begin development of alternatives after this month's interviews are complete, although stakeholder engagement and public communication will continue in earnest for the duration of the project.

### **D. Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) meeting – February 4, 2016**

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC that the next scheduled TPC meeting is February 4, 2016; however, the meeting may be deferred to March 3rd.

## **7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.**

Mr. Robinson indicated that he would like to see the results for the MPO's Strategic Plan for Active Mobility (the bicycle mobility plan). Mr. Pollack reiterated that he would be happy to provide a presentation update to the TAC at the February or March meeting.

**8. Presentation: TxDOT Administrative Funding Process and Reconciliation Update**

Ms. Alison McMillan from the TxDOT Finance Department provided information regarding the state level administrative funding process. She clarified the process by which funds are distributed from the federal and state levels, summarized the projections for the Corpus Christi MPO's funding in various categories, and identified upcoming milestones in the state's revision of its Unified Transportation Plan based on the new five-year federal legislation – Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

There were no public comments.

**10. ADJOURN.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

**NOTE:** Ms. McMillian conducted a workshop immediately follow the conclusion of the regular meeting agenda to provide an opportunity for open discussion. Members of the public were invited.