

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC) MINUTES**

MARCH 3, 2016

1. Call to Order and Quorum Determination:

Judge Simpson called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers.

Judge Simpson, San Patricio County; Mr. Caron, Texas Department of Transportation – Corpus Christi District (TxDOT); Mr. Zahn, Port of Corpus Christi Authority; Mr. Rock, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (RTA); Mayor Martinez, City of Corpus Christi; & Mayor Krebs, City of Portland were present.

2. Introduction of Visiting Agency Officials:

The Committee welcomed members of the community, the Technical Advisory Committee Members, TxDOT representatives and City Staff.

3. Introduction of new TPC members:

Mr. Pollack welcomed and introduced Mr. Charles Zahn, Port of Corpus Christi Authority Commission Chairman and Mr. Curtis Rock, P.E., Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Board Chairman.

4. Approval of the December 3, 2015 TPC Meeting Minutes:

Judge Simpson called for approval of the minutes of the regular TPC meeting of December 3, 2015.

Mayor Krebs made a motion to approve the TPC meeting minutes; Mr. Zahn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Items for Discussion and Action:

A. Discussion and action to elect officers for the Transportation Policy Committee.

Mayor Martinez made a motion to re-elect Judge Simpson as Chair; Mayor Krebs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Krebs made a motion to elect Mayor Martinez as Vice Chair; Mr. Zahn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion Only:

A. FY 2017 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Update.

Mr. Pollack reminded the committee that the FY 2017 TAP Call for Projects closed at 5:00 p.m., CST, on January 29, 2016. He informed the committee that the public comment period had closed and that it appears that staff will be able to program all four of the applicant projects over the next two years (FY 2017 and FY 2018); staff will be distributing award letters within the week. Mr. Pollack indicated that staff will be seeking action by the TPC to approve amendments the TIP and MTP to include the successful projects. Project submittals can be viewed on-line at: http://www.corpuschristi-mpo.org/05_projects_tap.html. The public comment period, which opened on February 1st, closed March 2nd.

B. FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Update/2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation (MTP) Amendment.

Mr. Pollack explained that MPO staff have begun the requisite two-year update of our fiscally constrained, four-year plan, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 2017-2020. He commented that because much of the MPO's Category 7 funding through FY 2019 (and potentially beyond) is committed to construction of the Harbor Bridge, this TIP update affords a unique opportunity to take a big picture approach to longer-term project identification and prioritization. Mr. Pollack stated that 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 (e.g. Proposition 1 and Proposition 7).

Mr. Pollack indicated that staff have been working with the TAC to update the scope and Year of Expenditure (YOE) cost estimates for all projects on the MTP and are categorizing all projects according to five federal priority areas:

1. Safety
2. Congestion
3. Connectivity
4. Freight
5. Energy

In an effort to uphold federal mandate, staff have also identified performance measures that may be useful in prioritizing the projects in each category as part of an effort to be able to demonstrate a data basis for our prioritization process to satisfy requirements of the new federal funding bill (FAST Act).

Mr. Pollack referenced the exhibit in the agenda packet, which illustrates the updated format for the MTP.

C. TPC Members' Comments and Concerns.

There were no comments.

D. Staff Briefing:

a. Orientation Packet

Mr. Pollack informed the Committee that staff created new binders for individual members to facilitate organization of meeting materials. Mr. Pollack also stated that staff also created a TPC Orientation Packet for new members and included this packet in all Committee members' meeting binders. Mr. Pollack asked members to leave these notebooks in place at the end of the meeting so that staff may update them accordingly for the next TPC meeting.

b. Regional Parkway Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study.

Mr. Pollack informed the Committee that the consulting team continues to make progress on Regional Parkway PEL project. The team has visited with key stakeholders and will begin generating alignment alternatives over the next four to six weeks.

c. Strategic Plan for Active Mobility.

Mr. Pollack informed the Committee that response to the recently completed Bicycle Mobility Plan, which is Phase 1 of the MPO's Strategic Plan for Active Mobility, had been very positive so far, including unanimous action by Corpus Christi City Council to direct City staff to bring the plan back to Council in the form of a resolution for adoption into the City's Urban Transportation Plan (which

is part of Mobility CC). MPO staff will be presenting to the Corpus Christi Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee on March 9th, Portland City Council on March 15, and the Corpus Christi Planning Commission on March 23. The Plan should be back before City of Corpus Christi City Council for action shortly thereafter. Mr. Pollack will also be presenting the work at the Texas Trails and Active Transportation Conference in Houston on March 9.

d. US 181 Ramp Reversals south of FM 3229 (Buddy Ganem Dr.).

Mr. Pollack stated that the US 181 ramp reversal project (south of Buddy Ganem Dr.) remains a priority for the MPO, and staff continues to work with the District to identify possible funding. Mr. Pollack pointed out that staff intends to program this project for the first available Category 7 funds (projected for 2020) as a placeholder. However, Mr. Pollack emphasized that staff consider this project strong fodder for available Prop 1 or Prop 7 funds as early as 2018 if no other funding sources have been identified before that time.

Mayor Krebs thanked Mr. Pollack for the MPO's continued efforts in prioritizing the project.

Judge Simpson commented about mounting congestion around Gregory, specifically at the SH35/US 181 interchange, during peak commute hours. He inquired about the MPO boundary in that area and inquired about the MPO's capacity to address this issue.

Mr. Pollack referred to the map of the MPO boundary that is included in the TPC Orientation Packet for New Members, a copy of which was provided in the notebooks at each member's seat. He also stated that staff are very mindful of mounting congestion associated with freight and work force traffic in eastern San Patricio County, and the re-organization of the MTP that was discussed earlier is one means by which staff are attempting to better define gaps in freight planning that might ultimately help address these issues.

Mayor Krebs inquired whether the Kay Bailey Hutchison overpass would have any effect on the congestion on the east side of Gregory.

Mr. Pollack reminded the TPC that the overpass project, which will be funded in part by FY 2016 and FY 2017 MPO Proposition 1 money, is one phase of a much larger look at a large section of US 181. He commented that while the overpass project itself does not extend to the area in question, the efficiency in traffic movement to be gained from the overpass projected should positively impact the area to the north of the project limits.

Ms. Paula Sales-Evans informed the Committee that the Sunset Road will be the northern limit of the Kay Bailey Hutchison overpass project.

e. Transportation Policy Committee meeting – April 7, 2016.

The Committee rescheduled the next TPC Meeting from April 7th to April 14th at 3:30 p.m.

E. Future Agenda Items.

There were none.

F. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

G. Adjourn.

There being no further business, Judge Simpson adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.