

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

September 13, 2017

1. Call to Order and Quorum determination

Judge Simpson called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. at the Nueces County Courthouse, Commissioners Courtroom.

Present: Judge Terry Simpson, San Patricio County; Judge Loyd Neal, Nueces County; Mayor David Krebs, City of Portland, Curtis Rock, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority; Chris Caron, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation; and John Buckner, Coastal Bend Council of Governments.

Staff present: Jeff Pollack, Brigida Gonzalez, Daniel Carrizales, Victor Mendieta, Elena Buentello, and Ingrid Spear.

2. Introduction of visiting agency officials

Mr. Pollack introduced Ingrid Spear as the new MPO Office Manager. Judge Simpson welcomed all in attendance.

3. Approval of the July 6, 2017 TPC Meeting Minutes

Judge Simpson called for the approval of the minutes of the regular TPC meeting of July 6, 2017. Mr. Krebs made a motion to approve the TPC meeting minutes; Mr. Rock seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentation

A. Update on Construction of Harbor Bridge Project

Darrell Chambers and Lorette Williams of Flatiron/Dragados, LLC updated the TPC on the Harbor Bridge Project.

B. Loss of Air Quality Funding for Near Non-attainment Communities

Gretchen Arnold, Chair of the Corpus Christi Air Quality Group and Pollution Prevention Partnership, spoke to the impacts to our region of Governor Abbott's veto of \$6M annually for air quality improvement programs in communities that are near non-attainment with federal ozone standards.

Ms. Arnold reported that the veto translates to a loss of \$200,000 per year for the next two years for our region, pending action in the next legislature. Two programs are at risk:

1. AutoCheck/CleanFleet, which provides free screening of private and fleet vehicles and offers repair vouchers for grossly polluting vehicles to reduce emissions of the precursors of ozone pollution
2. Supplemental air quality monitoring by the College of Engineering at the University of North Texas, which operates three research grade monitoring stations in Nueces County to augment data collected by the two Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) stations in order to be able to better demonstrate the impacts of long-range transport on local ozone levels

Ms. Arnold stated that, with pending contributions from the Port of Corpus Christi and from the Port Industries Association, approximately \$60K per year is still needed to fully fund the supplemental air monitoring and approximately \$40K per year is needed to fully fund AutoCheck/CleanFleet for the next two years.

Ms. Arnold emphasized that both the cost per ton of mitigating ozone emissions and the cost of obtaining an industrial air quality permit will increase exponentially if our region falls into non-attainment status.

Judge Simpson reiterated the need for continued funding of air quality improvement programs in communities that are near non-attainment with federal ozone standards and committed to do what he can to mitigate the funding shortfall.

Mayor Krebs inquired as to the reason for Governor Abbott's veto of air quality improvement programs. Ms. Arnold indicated that she could only guess as to the motivation, and she emphasized the need for community leaders to communicate with legislature the negative economic impact to local communities of failing to meet federal ozone standards.

5. Discussion and Possible Action

A. Transportation Alternatives Set-aside Program

The Transportation Alternatives Set-aside (TASA) program—formerly the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)—was authorized under Section 1109 of Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), the current federal transportation bill. In accordance with best practices from other MPOs in Transportation Management Areas (TMAs) in Texas and guidance from Federal Highways Administration (FHWA), MPO staff sought approval from TPC to uphold the previously approved implementation process while expanding allowable project costs to include design costs not to exceed ten percent (10%) of total construction cost.

Mr. Rock made a motion to approve upholding the previously approved implementation process while expanding allowable project costs to include design costs not to exceed ten percent (10%) of total construction cost; Mayor Krebs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Executive Session

The Transportation Policy Committee entered into Executive Session at 2:35 p.m. in accordance with the authority of the Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes, Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.076, 551.087, to consult with attorney(s) including matters related to litigation; deliberate regarding real property; prospective gift(s); personnel matters, including termination; security devices; and/or economic development negotiations and other matters that may be discussed in an Executive Session.

The Transportation Policy Committee reconvened into Open Session at 2:58 p.m. Judge Neal made a motion to continue the employment of the MPO Transportation Planning Director with a four percent (4%) salary increase; Mayor Krebs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Staff Briefing

A. Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Collaboration Submittal

Mr. Pollack informed the TPC that over the past few months, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has discussed candidate projects for a Port-led collaborative INFRA grant proposals. Careful evaluation of MTP projects revealed that none are well suited for the application in terms of both scope and timeframe for planning and design. As such, the TAC members agreed that the MPO would lend collaborative support to the projects that the Port intends to submit, which will likely involve soliciting letters of support and/or a resolution from individual members of the TPC or from the TPC as a whole.

B. MPO Travel Demand Model Update (TDM)

Mr. Pollack informed the TPC that staff's work in preparation of the 2018 update of the TDM is nearly complete. The TDM forecasts traffic flows on the transportation network, which informs the development of the MPO's long-range plan (Metropolitan Transportation Plan). Victor Mendieta, GIS Manager for the MPO, has been fulfilling work responsibilities historically outsourced to consultants, including updating the base and forecast year networks and updating forecast year demographic data. Over the next few weeks, MPO staff will seek feedback from TAC members on the projected growth rates in their respective communities, after which TxDOT will validate the model and deliver it back early in FY19.

C. Congestion Management Process (CMP) Narrative Refinement

Mr. Pollack informed the TPC that staff are—with guidance from the TAC—currently updating the MPO’s Congestion Management Process narrative on the basis of feedback from the FHWA received during the MPO’s Federal Certification Review and during subsequent correspondence. Once revised, the updated document will be before the TAC and TPC for approval.

D. Planning Law Seminar (September 8, 2017)

Mr. Pollack reported that on September 8th, the MPO co-hosted a Planning Law Seminar with the TX Chapter of the American Planning Association.

E. TxDOT Strava Data Workshop (September 19, 2017)

Mr. Pollack reported that on September 19th, the MPO will be co-hosting a workshop about the use of Strava data for active mobility planning. Strava is a free social platform and SmartPhone application that allows individuals to track, log, and analyze their walking, running, and cycling activities; MPO staff used Strava data in the creation of its Bicycle Mobility Plan. TxDOT’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Program acquired two years of Strava bicycle and pedestrian data and will be making the data available to local government entities (including MPOs, COGs, cities, counties, management districts, etc.) through sub-licenses at no cost.

F. FHWA Livability Newsletter Feature

Mr. Pollack informed the TPC that the Corpus Christi MPO’s Bicycle Mobility Plan would be featured in an upcoming issue of FHWA’s Livability Newsletter, which has national readership and will garner positive attention for our region.

G. Autonomous and Connected Vehicle Presentation (September 21, TAC)

Mr. Pollack informed the TPC that the agenda for the September 21 meeting of the MPO TAC was dedicated to a presentation and discussion of the state-of-the-art in connected and autonomous vehicle (CV/AV) technology; he encouraged TPC members to attend and to spread the word of this opportunity. TAC members had expressed strong interest in exploring this topic in anticipation of the need to consider emerging CV/AV technology in the planning, design, and implementation of transportation infrastructure. The featured presenter on 9/21, Kristie Chin, coordinates the Texas Innovation Alliance on behalf of the University of Texas at Austin and was instrumental in Austin’s designation as one of ten Autonomous Vehicle Proving Grounds by the US Department of Transportation.

H. Texas Mobility Summit 2.0 (October 16-17, 2017)

Mr. Pollack explained that the Second Annual Texas Mobility Summit, which was born out of the City of Austin’s 2016 application to the Smart City Challenge, is upcoming on October 16-17. Kristie Chin, the MPO’s presenter at TAC’s September 21st meeting, is the lead organizer. Mr. Pollack reminded the TPC that he and Chris Caron had participated last year; several other TAC members and other partners have expressed interest in helping to form a larger regional delegation this year. Mr. Pollack stated that he hopes to firm up commitments at next week’s TAC meeting.

8. Future Agenda Items

9. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Opportunity for public comment on any Agenda Item or any subject within the Committee’s jurisdiction (except a matter related to pending litigation) is provided at the conclusion of the meeting, or as specified by the Chairperson of the TPC. Proceedings are recorded. We ask that remarks be brief (limited to three minutes), that you identify yourself, and give your address.

10. Adjourn

All meetings of the MPO committees are open to the public. Any persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact the

MPO at (361) 884-0687 at least 48 hours in advance so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Información en Español: Si usted desea esta información en Español o si desea explicación sobre el contenido, por favor llámenos al teléfono (361) 884-0687 o comuníquese con nosotros mediante correo electrónico a ccmpo@cctxmpo.us. Nuestras oficinas están ubicadas en el 602 N. Staples Street, #300, Corpus Christi, TX 78401. Copias se proveerán a petición.

TPC meeting live broadcast information: In compliance with [Texas Senate Bill 1237](#), enacted September 1, 2015, related to internet broadcasts of open meetings held by the policy board of certain MPOs. The Corpus Christi MPO will be broadcasting internet live stream video of the Transportation Policy Committee's September 13 meeting on its [Twitter page](#), beginning at 2:30 p.m. CST.