

MEETING MINUTES OF THE
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
CAPITAL REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Tuesday, February 20, 2018
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

BREC Commission Chambers, Room 1800
6201 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA

Technical Advisory Committee Members present:

M. Todd Donmyer, Hon. David Toups, Tacie Rabalais, Hon. Richard Lee, III, Jackie Baumann, Julie McCulloch, Tom Stephens, Jennifer Branton, Dan Broussard, Harold “Skip” Paul, William “Bill” Deville, Kevin Durbin, Chance McNeely

The meeting was also attended by:

Mikeila Morgan, Jolie Maberry, Nicholas Olivier, Brian Kendrick, Codi Neyland, Roy Payne, Mike Bruce, Dawn Sholmire, Ruth Phillips, Tom Hunter, Fred Raiford, Kim Marousek, Robert Badeaux, Phuoc Dang, Wilfred Barry, Logan Anderson, Rachel DiResto, Rob Miller, Scott Hoffield, Carlos McCloud, Carondalette Stewart, Kendra Hendricks, Jamie Setze, Mary Stringfellow

1. INTRODUCTION

Harold “Skip” Paul – TAC Chairman

The meeting was called to order by Harold “Skip” Paul. The meeting began with introductions by attendees.

2. ACTION ITEMS

A. TIP Amendments

Ravi Ponnappureddy, CRPC, discussed the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments. They were divided into two categories. The first list includes projects administered by DOTD. They have federal funds included in the project. Any major changes have to go through the MPO committees before the changes become final. The second list entails projects funded by the MPO (Surface Transportation Program) and the MPO decides what happens to those funds.

The first amendment is US 190 @ Lobdell in West Baton Rouge Parish, project number H.000358. The amendment is to remove utilities, right of way and construction phases from the TIP because DOTD funding is not available. As a result of revenues for transportation not being increased, the Department must right-size the Highway Priority Program to bring it in line with realistic financial forecasts. The result will be DOTD developing a smaller Highway Priority Program each year to ensure public expectations are more consistent with the realistic outlook. The project cost is approximately \$57M.

Dawn Sholmire, DOTD, mentioned that the projects are still there and will be worked on when funding is available. There were a lot of project moved to the waiting for funding category. Ponnappureddy said that amendment #4 was a similar project that was waiting for funding.

Kevin Durbin, West Baton Rouge Parish, asked when did CRPC get the amendments? Ponnappureddy answered Friday (2/16/18). Sholmire said that the TIP Amendments could not be made until now, but the projects that would be moved to waiting were in the Highway Priority Program. Durbin said that there was not enough notice to take action on the amendments. He mentioned he could not support the amendments without further information.

Mayor David Toups asked if the TPC meeting could be moved or have a joint TAC/TPC meeting. After a brief discussion of options, it was decided to make the March 13th meeting a joint TAC/TPC meeting.

3. NON-ACTION ITEMS

A. MPO TAC Meeting Schedule and Structure

Ponnappureddy discussed the new TAC meeting schedule and structure. The meetings will be held monthly, usually the last Tuesday of the month. Beginning with the March TAC meeting, they will be held in the Large Conference Room of the Goodwood Library. The dates are March 13 (which will be a joint meeting with TPC), March 27, April 24, May 29, June 26, July 31, August 28, September 25, October 30, November 27, and December 18 from 10:30-11:30 am. Earlier in February, CRPC met with the chair and vice-chair of the TAC and reviewed the TAC membership. Some members have not been attending meetings. CRPC will contact them directly to find out if they have been receiving the notices and if they are still interested in serving on the committee. Also, there are new members that we would like to add to the committee including LSU, GBRIA, CPEX and CRISIS. Any change in membership we will have to bring to the TPC. We will do that in March. If approved, we will add them to the list in March.

B. I-10 Widening from LA 415 in West Baton Rouge to Essen Lane in East Baton Rouge

Brian Kendrick, DOTD, spoke about the widening project. He was also joined by Nick Olivier from DOTD. Providence [Engineering] is the prime consultant on the project. The TAC members were asked to submit questions about the project before the meeting. The following 11 questions were answered:

- 1. What is the timeline for the project by phases (Environmental, Traffic Management Plan, Engineering, Construction)?** The feasibility study was completed 1 ½ ago. Environmental assessment Stage 1 started January 2017. We anticipate we should have a FONSI by December of this year. In the interim, we implemented a 2-year survey contract surveying from LA 415 to Essen I-10 split. It should be completed in two years.
- 2. The project limits are LA 415 to Essen Lane on I-10 and I-12. Will there be any improvements made on the west side of Mississippi River as part of this project? Will there be any improvements to the bridge itself?** Project does include LA 415 across the bridge, nothing underneath the truss, past Washington

Street through to Essen on I-10 and I-12. There is work for the westbank. We don't know when because it depends on the funding of this project. The sequence of the project has not yet been determined.

3. **When is the best time for the local entities to provide comments on this project?** The first public meeting is scheduled for May or June of this year so that would be a great time to give comments. But, we have i10br.com where we accept comments at any time. They will be recorded and addressed.
4. **Research shows that during major construction projects as this, some businesses along the corridor go out of business? Will the environmental process review such impacts? We understand that there will be impacts and we will try to compensate for them. We will try to keep impacts to a minimum. We cannot determine some of the impacts because of so many other factors involved.**
5. **Will there be any money allocated for enhancement projects along this corridor as part of the community connections initiative? Will the local stakeholders have input into what kind of enhancements they are interested in their community?** There is no set amount for the enhancement features of the project. We need and encourage all persons and interests to make suggestions regarding these enhancements-aesthetics, noise mitigation and treatment for the underside of the interstate because of the noise. The complete streets are part of the project. We are meeting on the community connections program. We will update the website with drawing and rendering with what we propose and with the public comments.
6. **What changes are anticipated for the railroad underpass on Acadian? Will this be treated as a mitigation or community enhancement project?** It is outside of our project limits, but it is something we are still looking at. The plans are to close the two ramps at Perkins. That will divert more traffic to Acadian. Acadian will get improvements to that interchange.
7. **Will exit ramps along the corridor be closed for extended periods of time? Some ramps especially close to LSU may have significant impacts? How will these be mitigated? Will the project team be coordinated with the University during the environmental or TMP process?** Some ramps will be closed during construction. We are working to minimize disruptions and make readily available alternate routes when they are closed. The ramp closure durations and locations are unknown at this time. It is our intent to minimize impacts to the traveling public by implementation of a traffic management plan.
8. **What kind of improvements are being planned for the Nairn Dr Overpass? Will there be any enhancements made to the overpass?** Yes there will be enhancements. We want it to be aesthetically pleasing as it is one of the main features entering Baton Rouge. We are looking at it being pedestrian-friendly and possibly adding a bike path. Nairn bridge will be replaced in order to widen I-10.

9. **In the sections where additional lanes are being planned, will both sides of the interstate be worked on simultaneously?** The construction sequencing is unknown at this time. I don't foresee it being worked on both sides at the same time.
10. **MPO's Long Range Plan needs to be updated before the Environmental is complete. Is there drop-dead date by which the update needs to be completed and approved?** The FONSI is scheduled to be complete by December 2018, so we are asking the MPOs to have their long-range plans completed by October 2018. The TIPs will also need to be updated to reflect funding.
11. **Please elaborate on the funding mechanism that was presented at the January MPO meeting.** \$350M in GARVEY bonds for this particular project. \$600M for four projects and this one is the biggest chunk of the money. There are commitments for the GARVEY bonds and will be paid over a 12-year period. Commitment includes \$2M per year for 12 years from this group and \$1M per year for 12 years from the East Baton Rouge Parish City Government.

C. Transportation System Management and Operations Committee (TSMOC)

D. Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD) Initiative

Ravi Ponnappureddy discussed items C and D. The TAC had an ITS committee, but it has not been active in about five years. We plan to restart the committee but change the name to the Transportation System Management and Operations Committee. The committee shouldn't be too big. If you have recommendations as far as committee members let us know. We will email them around the first week of March and the TSMOC subcommittee will report to the full TAC what's discussed. The ATCMTD Initiative is an annual application from US DOT. We were unable to put an application together last year because of the long-range plan but this would be the first task of the subcommittee. The potential project would be 50% federal funds and 50% local match. June is the deadline to submit the application.

Ponnappureddy also mentioned that DOTD announced the 2018 Safe Routes to Public Place Program Call for Projects. The applications will be accepted from Monday, February 19 through Friday, April 20, 2018 and the information will be emailed to everyone. Any public agency can apply for it.

On March 6 at 10, there will be an official launch of the Commuter Krewe Program, the travel demand management project at the DOTD Headquarters. We welcome everyone to attend.

Next week there is a transportation conference. The Louisiana Transportation Conference will be held February 25-28. You can register on LTRC's website.

Some ideas for the March TAC meeting would be the BUMP Project Discussion, MPO Model Sharing Agreement, and Regional Traffic Counts Update. If anyone has any other ideas for the meeting, please email them to Ravi or Jamie.

Chairman Paul also mentioned the LTAP Safety Roads Program Crash Data Workshop. He will send out the information through email. Chairman Paul suggested to the CRPC staff the idea of putting together a funding handbook that will make the municipalities aware of various sources of funding, etc.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Paul asked was there any other business. Jackie Baumann, City of Gonzales, commented on the local road safety dollars. It's 100% funding and there is not a match. The application is short and sweet. She asked if the safe routes to public places call was every year or every 2 years? Jamie Setze replied that he thought the call for projects was every year.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Paul asked for a motion to adjourn. It was moved by Hon. David Toups and seconded by Bill Deville to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.