

MINUTES
TYLER AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, April 14, 2005, 3:00 p.m.
Tyler Development Center
423 W. Ferguson, Tyler, Texas

I. Call to Order

Mayor Seeber called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. Proof of Posting, Determination of a Quorum

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joey Seeber, Mayor	City of Tyler
Bob Turner	City Manager, City of Tyler
Becky Dempsey	County Judge, Smith County
Bobby Van Ness	Commissioner, Smith County
Mary Owen, P.E.	District Engineer, TxDOT
Mike Battles, P.E.	TxDOT
Fred Marquez	TxDOT
Dale Booth	TxDOT
Bill Bala	Smith County Engineer
Bill Ward	Projects Coordinator, City of Tyler
Norman Schenck.	General Manager, Tyler Transit
Davis Dickson	Airport Manager, City of Tyler
Kirk Houser	Traffic Engineer, City of Tyler
Mike Peterson	City of Whitehouse

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Randy Redmond, P.E.	TxDOT, TPP
Steven Hall, P.E.	TxDOT
Becky Dennison	FHWA
Ronny Fite	City of Whitehouse
Owen Scott	City of Lindale
Dan Peden, P.E.	City Engineer, City of Tyler
Greg Morgan, P.E.	Water Utilities Operations Manager, City of Tyler

STAFF PRESENT:

Mark McDaniel	Deputy City Manager
Stephanie Rollings	MPO
Dale Spitz	TxDOT, District Planner
Heather Nick	MPO

III. Introduction of new voting members: Bill Bala, County Engineer, and Bobby Van Ness, County Commissioner

Judge Dempsey introduced Mr. Bala and Mr. Van Ness.

IV. Discussion and Action: Change to Bylaws allowing proxy voting

The MPO Policy Committee Bylaws have been amended to allow for proxy voting as a result of a change to the Transportation Code. Mayor Seeber said this Committee has not had a problem getting a quorum. No action was taken.

V. Consideration of Minutes - December 9, 2004.

On Motion by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Turner and carried unanimously, the Policy Committee approved the Minutes as presented.

VI. Discussion and Action: Approval of updates and revisions to Urban Boundaries and Functional Classification.

Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) through an interagency contract with TxDOT-TPP in Austin has initiated the functional class update process from the 2000 Census with all MPOs in the state. The functional classification of all roadways within the MPO Boundary/Metropolitan Area Boundary has been reviewed and updated by MPO Staff. Functional classification is needed for Federal aid funding purposes and must be approved by TxDOT and FHWA after approval by the MPO Policy Committee.

On Motion by Ms. Owen, seconded by Mr. Ward and carried unanimously, the Policy Committee approved the update of the functional classification of all roadways within the MPO boundary/Metropolitan Area Boundary.

VII. Discussion and Action: Adoption of the 2006 – 2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The 2006 – 2008 TIP has been drafted and presented to the public for the required 10-day comment period prior to adoption. An advertised and posted public meeting was held March 29, 2005 at Harvey Hall to solicit public input on the Draft document.

Mrs. Rollings said the TIP must include all of the projects in order to get federal funding.

On Motion by Judge Dempsey, seconded by Mr. Ward and carried unanimously, the Policy Committee adopted the 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program as presented.

VIII. Discussion and Action: Reaffirm Category 3 priorities

Urban Area Corridor (Category 3) funds were prioritized in 2003 through a statewide working group which included representatives of the MPOs between 50 and 200K population and TxDOT districts. These MPOs are asked to annually review their priorities as part of the TxDOT's annual development of the Statewide Mobility Plan (SMP).

On Motion by Judge Dempsey, seconded by Ms. Owen and carried unanimously, the Policy Committee reaffirmed the Category 3 funding projects as part of TxDOT's annual development of the Statewide Mobility Plan.

IX. Discussion: Environmental Justice (EJ)

Staff has been working on developing a framework for Environmental Justice analysis for the urban transportation planning process. Maps have been created for your review and Staff will discuss future analysis related to EJ.

Ms. Nick said MPOs are required by Federal law to incorporate environmental justice analysis and procedures into the planning process. The three fundamental environmental justice principles are avoiding adversely affecting protected populations, including affected communities in the planning process, and preventing the denial of benefits to protected populations. An environmental justice analysis map shows the percentages of persons living below the poverty level, bus routes, and critical destinations, such as schools and hospitals. We can ensure that the areas served are those that don't have cars or have very few cars.

X. Discussion: Administrative change to 2030 MTP to include planning funds for transit

The 2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the Tyler Urbanized Area approved by the Tyler MPO Policy Committee on December 9, 2004, inadvertently omitted transit planning funds from Table 6-7 "Projected Transit Expenses." A corrected table identifying transit planning funding through 2030 is attached.

Mr. Schenck said this report addresses route analysis planning, planning the transfer center, and designating planning dollars for a new transfer site.

XI. Director's Report

- Master Street Plan: City of Tyler and 5-mile ETJ
- Update by Norman Schenck of Tyler Transit on Transit project
- other items as necessary

Mrs. Rollings said the City Council will consider the Master Street Plan and 5 mile ETJ at their regular meeting on April 27.

Mr. Schenck said the City of Tyler has partnered with the City of Longview to test drive a metro-gas powered Honda Civic to determine if it is a cleaner vehicle than the hybrid vehicle. He said the Civic pollutes less and gets better mileage. Mr. Schenck said Tyler Transit received a letter from the FTA allowing Tyler Transit to do a categorical exclusion to look at the potential for a transfer center across the street from the Depot. This allows us to make a decision without spending a lot of money and will determine if a transfer center would adversely affect the area. Mr. Spitz said it allows Tyler Transit to assess the situation without performing environmental impact requirements. Eventually, City Council would determine if this is the direction they want the public transit system to go.

XII. Open/Public Comment Period

No comments.

XIII. Adjourn.

On Motion by Mr. Turner, seconded by Judge Dempsey and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.