

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024
TYLER DEVELOPMENT CENTER, LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
423 WEST FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



Members Present:

Don Warren, Chair; Ed Broussard; Darin Jennings; Carolyn Caldwell; Leslie Black; Dee Roden; Neal Franklin; Frank Davis; and Shane Cunningham.

Members Absent:

Pam Frederick; Gary Halbrooks.

Staff Present:

Michael Howell; Heather Nick; and Ethan Sukiennik.

Others Present:

Gaylord Hughey, Attorney; Alex de Ravel, Citizen; Dale Bats, Citizen.

Don Warren called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M.

Approval of Minutes:

Ed Broussard moved, seconded by Frank Davis, to approve the minutes from January 25, 2024. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Action Items:

1. Consider approving amendments to the Fiscal Year 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program to program rollover transit funds from prior fiscal years into fiscal year 2024

Michael Howell explained this amendment is to program unspent Federal Transit Administration dollars from previous years into fiscal year 2024. During the COVID pandemic, the federal government provided additional funding to transit agencies through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The purpose of the CARES funding was to supplement the transit agencies and keep them operating despite their loss of revenue due to reduced ridership. While most federal funding given to transit agencies requires a local match, CARES dollars did not have this requirement which is why CARES funding was used before any other funding sources. The utilization of CARES is what led to the unspent federal funds from other revenue sources. The amount of unspent fund amounts, and their associated funding categories are listed below.

Funding Category 5339: \$ 1,930

Funding Category 5307: \$1,044,724

Programming the unspent funds into the current budget will still require the typical local match in order to use the funding.

Darin Jennings moved, seconded by Neal Franklin, to approve the amendments to the Fiscal Year 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

2. Consider approving amendments to the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan to update estimated projects costs and edit a description to match the Transportation Improvement Program

Michael Howell explained that the proposed amendments are to update project costs in accordance with the latest estimates. The amendment is also to revise the description of the Old Jacksonville 6-lane widening project to match the description listed in the TIP.

Neal Franklin moved, seconded by Shane Cunningham, to approve the amendments to the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

3. Consider adopting the Fiscal Year 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program

Michael Howell gave a presentation outlining upcoming projects for the fiscal year 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Plan.

Mr. Howell explained that the following list outlines the projects intended to improve safety and reduce congestion. Appendix A of the TIP also lists miscellaneous maintenance projects including street overlays, bridge maintenance and safety improvements which are not individually being called out.

Highway Projects

- 2025
 - No Highway Projects Scheduled for FY 2025
- 2026
 - Widen FM 756 from Jeff Davis to FM 346
 - Construct Interchange at FM 756 and FM 346
- 2027
 - No Highway Projects Scheduled for FY 2027
- 2028
 - Widen FM 2493 from Loop 323 to FM 2813

Frank Davis moved, seconded by Darin Jennings, to adopt the Fiscal year 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

4. Consider approving amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program related to the required amount of resources programmed for Complete Streets Planning

Michael Howell explained that the Texas Administrative Code requires MPOs to document planning activities in a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to indicate who will perform the work, the schedule for completing it, and all products that will be produced. The current UPWP covers fiscal years 2024-2025 and was adopted by the Policy Committee on May 25, 2023.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act requires that MPOs program a minimum 2.5% of its PL funds to Complete Streets Planning. TxDOT's Transportation Planning and Programming division has notified the MPO of its FY 2025 PL funding allocation and has determined the Complete Street Planning minimum allocation to be \$6,672.83.

Ed Broussard moved, seconded by Frank Davis, to approve the amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Staff Updates:

1. Director's Report

Mr. Howell explained that the public outreach to solicit input on the public's priorities for transportation projects was kicked off on April 16th. The local branch of HALFF Associates is conducting stakeholder meeting and reporting the results back to ATG. Most TAC and Policy Committee members should expect to be contacted in the near future to set up a stakeholder meeting.

A presentation on the initial project scoring exercise is being planned to be presented to the TAC for review at the July meeting.

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates

Mr. Howell provided notice of the upcoming Technical Advisory Committee meeting on July 11, 2024, and the next Transportation Policy Committee meeting scheduled on July 25, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 2:16 P.M.