

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2019
REGULAR MEETING, TDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
423 W. FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



Members Present:

Heather Nick, Michael Howell, Jimmy Toler, Leroy Sparrow, Paul Schneider, Brooke Droptini, Jeffrey Harmon, Barham Fulmer, Tom Mullins and Bill Lewis.

Others Present:

None.

Heather Nick called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Barham Fulmer moved, seconded by Tom Mullins, to approve the minutes from April 4, 2019. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Barham Fulmer moved, seconded by Tom Mullins, to approve the minutes from May 2, 2019. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Action Items:

1. Consider recommending the revised FY20-21 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) be adopted by the Transportation Policy Committee

Mr. Howell presented the item stating that the staff has proposed a range of work items and budget to satisfy the planning activities required to address federal and state planning regulations and to address regional planning needs. He noted that the revenue presented was forecasted and actual funding would vary based on economic conditions that could affect the work items listed.

The major planning items in the proposed work program include:

- 2020 - Complete the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Task 4.1)
- 2020 - Update the Master Street Plan (Task 5.1)
- 2021 - Perform a regional Transit Route Study (Task 5.2)

Mr. Howell stated that the draft UPWP had been submitted to the TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming (TPP) division for review and no comments had been returned. He recommended approval of the draft UPWP.

Leroy Sparrow moved, seconded by Jimmy Toler, to recommend the draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) be adopted by the Transportation Policy Committee.

Presentation Items:

1. Present the results of the project scoring exercise for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Howell provided an overview of how the scores were calculated, presented the final scores, and identified the top and bottom ranked projects. He asked if the TAC had comments about the final ranking.

Brooke Droptini stated that projects 2 (interchange at Loop 323 and SH 110), 8 (SH 110 widening), 11 (SS 248 pedestrian bridge), and 13 (US 271 widening) were high in her opinion. She also said that projects 19 (FM 346 widening) and 27 (FM 2813 widening) were low and should be higher.

Ms. Nick asked how often the projects could be rescored if it was deemed necessary by the Policy Committee. Mr. Howell replied that a follow up meeting could be scheduled to re-rank a single or multiple projects if the Policy Committee thought their benefits were not being represented. He also stated that, because the MTP had to be fiscally constrained, the projects may not be constructed in the order in which they are ranked.

Jeffrey Harmon asked if cost estimates were being made for the projects. Mr. Howell replied that the consultant was in the process of preparing those estimates.

Ms. Nick commented that the ranking process was a federal requirement, but did not obligate the order of construction. Mr. Howell noted that the ranking also shows the public's priorities and could support TxDOT in trying to advance a large project like the expansion of I-20. Mr. Harmon commented that other factors, such as political support, could change the project priorities once the impacts to adjacent properties for a project are known.

No action required.

Staff Updates:

1. MPO Executive Director's Report

Ms. Nick provided notice of the Governor signing Senate Bill 962, which extends transportation funding generated from oil and natural gas production taxes until 2034. She also gave an update on the Census Bureau preparing to open an Area Office in Tyler and gave notice of a TxDOT public meeting to provide information and receive comments on the 2020 Unified Transportation Program (UTP).

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates

Ms. Nick notified the Committee of the upcoming Transportation Policy Committee meeting on July 25, 2019 and of the next regular TAC meeting on September 5, 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.