

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019  
REGULAR MEETING, TDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM  
423 W. FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



**Members Present:**

Heather Nick, Michael Howell, Kyle Kingma, Leroy Sparrow, Paul Schneider, Jimmy Toler, Barham Fulmer, Tom Mullins and Brooke Droptini.

**Others Present:**

Samuel Brady, Tyler Area MPO.

**Heather Nick called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

Jimmy Toler moved, seconded by Kyle Kingma, to approve the minutes from January 10, 2019. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**Action Items:**

**1. Consider recommending amendments to the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mr. Howell presented the item stating that the amendment was to allocate funds for the purchase of right-of-way and relocating utilities for FM 2493 (Old Jacksonville Highway) from Flint to Bullard (CSJ: 0191-03-083), and FM 756 (Paluxy Drive) from Jeff Davis Drive to FM 346 (CSJ: 0492-04-034). The proposal was to allocate funds for the purchase of right-of-way and relocating utilities for both projects. TxDOT had forecasted \$8.0 million required for FM 2493 and \$3.5 million for FM 756.

Mr. Howell also reported on a public meeting held on Wednesday March 6, 2019 to receive public input on the Transportation Improvement Project. There was no public input from that meeting to report to the board.

Jimmy Toller commented that Cumberland Academy might have difficulty with the construction in the short term, prompting some discussion about Capital Improvements that may improve the traffic situation in that area.

Kyle Kingma asked why funding for right-of-way was not part of the original scope if it was known that it would be needed. Mr. Howell responded that the alignment had not been determined when the project was listed in the TIP. Given the number of factors that contribute to estimating right-of-way and utility relocation costs that were unavailable, it was decided to not list the cost knowing that it would require a subsequent amendment.

Brooke Droptini moved, seconded by Jimmy Toller, to recommend the adoption of the proposed amendments to the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

## **Discussion Items:**

### **1. Discuss development for the FY 20-21 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Mr. Howell presented to the committee on the process of developing the UPWP so far. Mr. Howell informed the committee that budgeting for the UPWP had been changed to include some funds for staff administration and GIS work related to the 2020 Census. The Special Studies portion of the UPWP has not been given federal direction on what can or cannot be pursued under this program, so the Tyler Metropolitan Planning Organization has identified some studies that may be undertaken in the UPWP. The Tyler Master Street Plan has not been updated since 2012 and an updated version may be pursued through the UPWP. There is enough funding in the UPWP for two major special studies program, so if the committee agrees on the need to conduct the Tyler Master Street Plan through the UPWP there would still be funding for another major study. Mr. Howell invited the committee consider what studies they would like to recommend the MPO pursue under the UPWP and to discuss them at future meetings or bring them to his attention.

Jimmy Toller asked how often the Master Street Plan is expected to be updated. Heather Nick responded that when creating the Master Street Plan they intended for a new plan to be created every five years but that any updated plan would share many consistencies with previous versions of the plan.

Leroy Sparrow asked if future Transit Route Studies would be candidates. Mr. Howell recommended that Leroy Sparrow work with Russ Jackson to create a proposal and to bring it to the next meeting.

No action required.

### **2. Discus the upcoming call for projects and subsequent project scoring exercise for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update**

Mr. Howell presented to the committee on the upcoming call for projects. In following up from discussion at the last meeting Mr. Howell spoke to the consultants at Alliance about the prospect of Alliance proposing initial scores for the projects which the TAC would review and decide on the final score. Alliance and Mr. Howell have determined that with some elements of the scoring requirements of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update that would be possible but on others, the consultant would be unable to provide a meaningful starting point. Certain criteria including safety and crash data can understood through a transportation model and the statistical efforts that have happened so far, but the requirement of scoring project on security rating cannot be satisfied through the use of a statistical model and would require input from key partners such as the police department to get a meaningful rating.

Quality of Life, Supporting Land Use Goals, and Travel and Training options are criteria that would require some or all of the TAC to score.

Tom Mullins asked when that scoring process would begin. Mr. Howell responded that a call for projects will need to happen first so scoring by the TAC could happen around June of 2019.

Brooke Droptini recommended that as much as possible of the TAC be present for all scoring activities in order to minimize duplication of effort and to maximize the expertise available for this process. Tom Mullins indicated his support of that proposal.

The TAC accepted Brook Droptini's proposal. Mr. Howell informed the committee that on some technical aspects of the scoring requirement there might be a recommended score developed from the transportation model. On other aspects of the scoring requirements the TAC would need to come to an agreement on an appropriate score and would undergo that evaluation with all members present.

Mr. Howell presented the committee with an update on the ongoing call for projects and asked for feedback on how the projects are presented in MPO materials. The committee informed Mr. Howell that they are satisfied with how the upcoming open call for projects are planning on being presented.

No action required.

## **Staff Updates:**

### **1. MPO Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Nick presented to the group on an upcoming open house on March 20 2019 from 4 pm to 6 pm CST. This open house is intended to solicit feedback from the community on transportation funding.

### **2. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

Mr. Howell made the committee aware of a Policy Committee Meeting on March 28 2019. This meeting will include a presentation on Active Tyler.

Mr. Howell also made the committee aware of the next TAC meeting on May 2 2019.

**The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.**