

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020  
REGULAR MEETING, TDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM  
423 W. FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



**Members Present:**

Don Warren, Chair; Ed Broussard; Leslie Black; Gary Halbrooks; Jenifer Lusk; Riley Harris; and Jeff Warr.

**Members Absent:**

Lisa Crossman; Carolyn Caldwell; Frank Davis; Vernon Webb and Nathaniel Moran.

**Staff Present:**

Heather Nick, Michael Howell, and Zach Clark.

**Others Present**

Jeffrey Harmon, TxDOT

**Don Warren called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

Jeff Warr moved, seconded by Ed Broussard, to approve the minutes from July 30, 2020.  
Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**Action Items:**

**1. Consider adopting revised 2020 and 2022 System Performance Targets as recommended by Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI)**

Mr. Howell presented the item and discussed the System Performance Targets, the Interstate Level of Travel Time Reliability, Non-Interstate NHS Level of Travel Time Reliability, and the Interstate Truck Travel Time Reliability. Mr. Howell stated that Texas A&M Transportation Institute reviews these targets and gives recommendations. Mr. Howell noted that the targets are becoming more stringent because we are meeting these goals.

Mr. Howell stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) unanimously recommends approval of the revised 2020 and 2022 System Performance Targets as recommended by Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI).

Mr. Broussard asked if anything happens when the targets hit 100%. Mr. Howell noted that Tyler MPO is almost performing there, however this is an acknowledgment of that. Mr. Howell stated that when the performance levels go down it is typically a result of a higher demand annually.

Ed Broussard moved, seconded by Riley Harris, to adopt the revised 2020 and 2022 System Performance Targets. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **2. Consider adopting amendments to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mr. Howell presented the item and discussed that COVID-19 had slowed down revenue and these amendments are a reaction to that. Mr. Howell noted that the Technical Policy Committee may see additional amendments in the future because this funding is based on the economy. Mr. Howell stated that the recession caused by the corona virus pandemic has made it necessary to delay expected let dates for constructions nationwide. Mr. Howell stated projects FM 16 starting from US 69 and extending to County Road 481, FM 2493 starting from Flint and extending to Cherokee County Line, FM 756 starting from Jeff Davis Drive extending to FM 346, the Lindale Sidewalk Project, and FM 2493 starting from Loop 323 extending to FM 2813 were all being delayed. Mr. Howell noted that the project to widen FM 2493 is being delayed to 2026 and will be removed from the section of active projects in the TIP to the appendix.

Mr. Howell stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) unanimously recommends approval of the amendments to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Warren asked if the project on FM 2493 that was being removed from the TIP would include the intersection improvements. Mr. Howell clarified that this project is only removing the widening of Old Jacksonville from the 2020-2024 TIP.

Mr. Halbrooks asked if the changes in the TIP were coming from TxDOT. Mr. Howell confirmed that was correct.

Gaylord Hughey, 305 Ferrell Place, stated he was representing the “Stop the Overpass Tolley” and stated that TxDOT was keeping \$30 million in the TIP for the Overpass at Loop 323 and Old Jacksonville Highway.

Mr. Warren asked if the terminology had been changed regarding the overpass project. Gaylord clarified that it had been changed, however the fees are still there and TxDOT just moved it to 2026. Mr. Warren asked if the Environmental Assessment was required. Gaylord clarified that Glen Green had stated this assessment was tied to the funding.

Mr. Halbrooks stated at the previous meeting they decided to let TxDOT come back with every option available and include their pricing. Mr. Halbrooks asked why Gaylord wants to stop the expansion of Old Jacksonville Highway. Gaylord stated he wanted to address public safety at Loop 323 and Old Jacksonville Highway. Jeffrey Harmon stated Gary Halbrooks was right and TxDOT is currently looking at all potential options.

Mr. Broussard asked if there was consideration of access for Gaylord Hughey. Gaylord has stated yes, they were considering that and there was a possibility of putting in a traffic light.

Bob Westbrook, 4116 Pine Creek Drive, stated the Loop 323 and Old Jacksonville Highway is the 86<sup>th</sup> most congested roadway in Texas and does not want this project to be completely removed without allowing TxDOT to speak with the community first.

Mr. Warr asked how difficult it would be to add specific verbiage to the TIP amendments. Mr. Howell clarified that it would not be able to be done at this meeting but could possibly be ready at the next TPC meeting.

Ms. Nick asked if there were existing safety concerns in the TIP. Mr. Harmon clarified that the TIP currently addresses safety concerns.

Mr. Broussard asked what the difference between access piece and safe access was. Jeffrey Harmon clarified that scenarios exist for those. Ms. Nick noted that the MPO Policy Committee wants the scope of projects which will include looking at aspects for safe access. Mr. Harmon stated that the scope is already included in the plan, otherwise they would need to include every business plan. Mr. Howell noted that the Federal Highway may not like the descriptions if they are adjusted and will send it back to the drawing table. Mr. Howell stated that they can keep the table the same however they could add text below the table to explain the scenarios. Mr. Harmon stated that he was fine with that he just wanted all the documents to be consistent.

Ed Broussard moved, seconded by Gary Halbrooks, to adopt amendments to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

- 3. Consider adopting amendments to the FY20-21 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**  
Mr. Howell presented the item and discussed 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. Mr. Howell stated that the MPO planned to start two projects in spring, but as a result of COVID-19 the funding will mostly be paid out of FY21.

Mr. Howell stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) unanimously recommends approval of the amendments to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program.

Jeff. Warr moved, seconded by Ed Broussard, to adopt amendments to the FY20-21 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

## **Staff Updates:**

- 1. Executive Director's Report**  
Mr. Howell presented stating that Walter P Moore had been hired for the Master Street Plan update and is drafting a recommended plan update which will be presented in late January/February of next year. Mr. Howell noted that the MPO had hired Toole Design to conduct a transit route study to improve bus service in the City of Tyler. Mr. Howell stated that Toole Design is developing draft recommendations which will be presented in late January/February of next year. Mr. Howell stated he wanted to give recognition to Jeff Warr for serving on the Board.
- 2. Upcoming Meeting Dates**  
Mr. Howell provided notice of the upcoming Technical Advisory Committee meeting on January 7, 2022 and the next Transportation Policy Committee meeting scheduled on January 21, 2021.

**The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.**