

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020  
REGULAR MEETING, TDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM  
423 W. FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



**Members Present:**

Heather Nick, Michael Howell, Stephanie Franklin, Leroy Sparrow, Brian Capps, Brooke Droptini, Jeffrey Harmon, Barham Fulmer, Bill Lewis, and Tom Mullins.

**Others Present:**

Cameron Williams, City of Tyler Engineering

**Heather Nick called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Sparrow moved, seconded by Mr. Harmon to approve the minutes from January 9, 2019. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**Presentation Items:**

**1. Updates on work performed to support the 2020 Census**

Mr. Howell presented the item discussing the various outreach programs that had been utilized for the 2020 Census to get a complete count of Smith County. Mr. Howell stated that April 1, 2020 was the Census Day. Mr. Howell noted there had been a “Roses and Weeds” podcast episode as well as an article published in Tyler Today. Mr. Howell inquired about using TxDOT electronic message boards to encourage a higher census participate rate. Mr. Howell additionally encouraged the other members of the TAC to encourage Census participation.

**2. Report on 2018 Safety Performance**

Mr. Howell presented the item discussing that the current transportation bill, Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act requires states and MPOs to adopt targets to benchmark and examine success. Mr. Howell noted the Technical Policy Committee asked for a more comprehensive analysis of the data at the January 23, 2020 meeting. Mr. Howell discussed driver behavior is the leading factor to fatalities, that fatalities are dispersed in both urban and rural areas, however serious injuries clusters were located in close proximity to major intersections

Ms. Nick asked when the TAC would likely see the next distribution of data. Mr. Howell responded that the data is shared annually, so the next set would be shared with the MPO in 2021.

Mr. Harmon noted that a lot of the areas with the serious injuries had projects from the Metropolitan Transportation Plan going on or have plans to be developed in the near future. Mr. Harmon additionally noted that this helps support the need for these projects and will hopefully help reduce the number of serious injuries in this locations.

Mr. Howell noted that distracted driver behavior is not something that was tracked for most of the data points here.

## **Action Items:**

### **1. Consider recommending the contract to perform the Master Street Plan update be awarded to Walter P Moore**

Mr. Howell presented the item discussing the Master Street Plan (MSP) was last updated in 2012. Mr. Howell noted three firms responded to an RFQ sent out by the MPO. Mr. Howell noted the four person grading committee, which consisted of Tharani Devi, Senior City Planner; Kyle Kingma, ACIP, CFM, Planning Manager, Cameron Williams, City of Tyler Engineer; and himself. Mr. Howell noted Walter P Moore was the firm that received the highest score from the grading committee. Mr. Howell discussed City Council will need to approve the budget for this contract and then the contract will need to be approved by the Technical Policy Committee.

Staff recommended the Technical Advisory Committee recommend the contract be awarded to Walter P Moore.

Mr. Sparrow moved, seconded by Ms. Droptini to recommend the contract to perform the Master Street Plan update be awarded to Walter P Moore to the Technical Policy Committee. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

### **2. Consider recommending the contract to perform the Transit Route Study update be awarded to Toole Design**

Mr. Howell presented the item discussing the Transit Route Study which had last been updated in 2010. Four firms replied to the request for proposals sent out by the MPO. Mr. Howell noted there was a five-person grading committee, which consisted of Leroy Sparrow, Tyler Transit; Robert Gill, Vince Huerta, Director of GoBus; Amber Rojas, Main Street Director; and himself. Mr. Howell noted the firm with the best scoring between the qualifications they had and the cost of the proposed project was Toole Design, with a contract total of \$119,500. Mr. Howell stated City Council will need to approve the budget for this contract then then the contract will need to be approved by the Technical Policy Committee.

Ms. Nick noted that Toole Design was the consultant that worked on the Active Tyler plan.

Staff recommended the Technical Advisory Committee recommend the contract to perform the Transit Route Study update be awarded to Toole Design.

Mr. Harmon moved, seconded by Mr. Sparrow to recommend the contract to perform the Transit Route Study update be awarded to Toole Design. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

## **Staff Updates:**

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

Ms. Nick stated that TxDOT announced the recipients for funding for sidewalks and bicycle projects was awarded to the City of Lindale in the amount of \$836,000 for improvements connecting two schools. Ms. Nick noted the MPO gave a letter of support to the City of Lindale for this project.

Ms. Nick discussed the current Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) was going to expire at the end of the summer. Ms. Nick noted TxDOT will help develop the 2021-2024 TIP and it is expected that the draft will be ready to review in May.

**2. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

Ms. Nick provided noting of the next scheduled Policy Committee meeting scheduled on March 26 and the next Technical Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for May 7.

**The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.**