

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022  
TYLER DEVELOPMENT CENTER, LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM  
423 WEST FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



**Members Present:**

Don Warren, Chair; \*Ed Broussard (late arrival); Carolyn Caldwell; Leslie Black; Cary Nix; Frank Davis and Gary Halbrooks.

**Members Absent:**

Darin Jennings; Dennis Ford; Nathaniel Moran and Vernon Webb.

**Staff Present:**

Michael Howell and Shelia Henderson.

**Others Present:**

Shane Cunningham, TxDOT; Gaylord Hughey, Attorney; and Mark Priestner, HALFF Associates.

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

Gary Halbrooks moved, seconded by Cary Nix, to approve the minutes from July 28, 2022.  
Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**Action Items:**

**1. Consider adopting an amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to redistribute funds related to Task 5 – Special Studies**

Mr. Howell presented the item stating that the amendment was to balance funds allocated between the two projects outlined in Task 5 Special Studies. He said that the scope of the Traffic Demand Model project was reduce in final development because the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) had taken more duties in house which resulted in \$50,000 in savings. Conversely, the scope of the Downtown Tyler Traffic Study grew to encompass the boundaries of downtown and not just the core. The expanded area raised the cost by \$45,000. Mr. Howell said the amendment would reallocate the savings from the Traffic Demand Model to cover the additional costs on the Downtown Tyler Traffic Study.

Frank Davis moved, seconded by Leslie Black, to adopt the amendments to the UPWP.  
Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**Presentation and Discussion Items:**

**2. Statewide Safety Task Force recommendations from the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)**

Mr. Howell reminded the Committee that the Texas Transportation Commission had adopted Vision Zero which was a goal of eliminating deaths on highways by 2050. To help accomplish the

goal, the Commission formed a Statewide Safety Taskforce. Mr. Howell said that the MPO Directors received a presentation from a Michael Morris with the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and member of the taskforce who briefed the directors on the Taskforce's upcoming proposal to request the Commission allocate \$50,000 to each MPO every year to be dedicate to safety improvements.

Mr. Howell noted that two of the allowed uses for this funding were local match for street safety improvements and capital costs. These expenses are not permitted expenses using the MPO's transportation planning (PL) funds. Mr. Howell said the purpose of the presentation was to inform the Committee about the potential funding so that staff would know how to use the funds if the Commission approves the proposal as presented. He also noted that the proposal required specific annual documentation reporting to the Commission on how it was used and its impact.

Gaylord Hughey spoke on the item expressing concerns about whether the needs of rural Texas was appropriately being considered. Don Warren thanked Mr. Hughey for his diligence in following regulation changes and sharing his insights with the Committee.

## **Staff Updates:**

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

::Ed Broussard enters::

Mr. Howell informed the TAC that there was currently enough unprogrammed funds in fiscal year 2023 budget to fund another Special Study. He said that the staff had been working with City of Tyler Engineering staff to develop a scope and budget for a Railroad Inventory and Analysis. He mentioned that the staff's goal was to not program all funds because of the possibility of two additional MPOs being designated which would reduce the MPO's annual revenue.

Mr. Howell provided notice that the Federal Highway Administration has published a Notice of Proposed Rule Making that will require States and MPOs to set performance targets for greenhouse gas emissions for vehicles. The rule specifies that 2021 would be baseline for emissions and the agencies would be required to adopt declining targets for every subsequent target. Mr. Howell noted concerns about the wording of the NPRM and discussed comments that he was having with the other MPO Directors. He said that comments would be submitted prior the October 13th deadline.

Mr. Warren asked how vehicle emissions were measured. Mr. Howell said he did not know how the emissions would be measured. Mr. Howell went on to say that other performance measure processes had been established by staff from the Federal Highway Administration and State Departments of Transportation who developed the processes and subsequently shared the processes with MPOs. Mr. Howell said that he expected similar direction to be given if the proposed rule was adopted.

Mr. Hughey shared his opinion that the proposed rule was an attack on the fossil fuel industry and mentioned his concerns that it would impact economic development. Mr. Hughey stated that he thought that Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton should be contacted and asked to file comments on behalf of the State of Texas against the proposed performance measure.

Lastly, Mr. Howell provided a status update on the Travel Demand Model Update and Downtown Tyler Traffic Study. He said an expert Delphi panel would be convened to begin forecasting future growth patterns up to 2050 for the Travel Demand Model. He also provided notice that traffic counts were going to be taken at 15 intersections as part of the Traffic Study which would be going out around October.

**2. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

Mr. Howell provided notice of the upcoming Technical Advisory Committee meeting on November 3, 2022 and the next Transportation Policy Committee meeting scheduled on November 17, 2022.

**The meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.**