

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022
TYLER DEVELOPMENT CENTER, LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
423 WEST FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



Members Present:

Don Warren, Chair; Ed Broussard; Darin Jennings; Carolyn Caldwell; Cary Nix; and Frank Davis.

Members Absent:

Gary Halbrooks; Dennis Ford; Nathaniel Moran; Leslie Black and Vernon Webb.

Staff Present:

Michael Howell

Others Present:

Gaylord Hughey, Attorney; Jacob Walker, HDR Inc; Mark Priestner, HALFF Associates; and Erin Wides, KLTV.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Frank Davis moved, seconded by Cary Nix, to approve the minutes from September 22, 2022.
Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Action Items:

- 1. Consider adopting an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to update the highway projects list to reflect the latest project information in TxDOT's Unified Transportation Plan (UTP)**

Mr. Howell presented the item stating that on August 30, 2022, the Texas Transportation Commission adopted the fiscal year 2023 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) which reapportioned funding for highway projects across the state. Mr. Howell said the proposed amendment was to align the MPO's TIP with the UTP. The amendment removed the widening of FM 2964 (Rhones Quarter Road) from the list of upcoming construction projects and replaced the project with the construction of an overpass at the intersection of FM 756 (Paluxy Drive) and FM 346.

Ed Broussard moved, seconded by Darin Jennings, to adopt the amendments to the TIP.
Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

- 2. Consider adopting an amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to dedicate a portion of the MPO's funding to Complete Streets Planning and to allocate funds to hire a consultant to perform a Railroad Inventory and Analysis**

Mr. Howell presented the item stating that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act requires MPOs dedicate a minimum 2.5% of their overall Transportation Planning (PL) funds to Complete

Streets Planning. He said the amendment also included a new \$150,000 Special Project to hire a consultant to perform a Railroad Inventory and Analysis.

Mr. Warren asked if the consultant would have a relationship with the railroad. Mr. Howell confirmed that the consultant's relationship with the railroad would be a factor when reviewing submittals. Mr. Warren asked if a substandard crossing was identified that the railroad would fix it. Mr. Howell clarified that the maintenance of the crossing was the responsibility of the local government entity who maintains the road.

Mr. Broussard asked if the study area was the MPO boundary. Mr. Howell said that the scope was expanded to the entire Smith County boundary.

Mr. Hughey asked if the purpose of the study was to understand the ownership of the rail lines. Mr. Howell replied that ownership was one part of the study but also included understanding how the rail was being used and the frequency of its use. Mr. Howell noted one output of the data would help local governments identify abandoned rail lines to being a dialog with the rail company about potential purchase.

Ms. Caldwell spoke about issues the City of Lindale had experienced with trying to acquire railroad right-of-way through their City. She said that she would like there to be dialog with the railroad and a path for cities to acquire abandoned rights-of-way more easily. Mr. Howell said that Request for Qualifications included a section for establishing guidelines for local governments to follow when dealing with the railroad.

Cary Nix moved, seconded by Ed Broussard, to adopt the amendments to the UPWP.
Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Staff Updates:

1. Director's Report

Mr. Howell provided an update on the Travel Demand Model update and the Downtown Tyler Traffic Study.

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates

Mr. Howell provided notice of the upcoming Technical Advisory Committee meeting on January 5, 2023 and the next Transportation Policy Committee meeting scheduled on January 26, 2023. He said that there were no tentative items on the agenda and that the meeting may be cancelled.

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.