Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee

Minutes

Friday, August 15, 2014 (9:30 a.m.)
First Floor Seminar Room
NLCOG Office, Shreveport Bar Association
625 Texas Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, LA 71101

Members Present
Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury
Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City
Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC
Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04
Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission (arrived at 10:10 a.m.)

Others Present
Mr. Jerry Jones – Counsel for NLCOG
Mr. Kent Rogers – Executive Director, NLCOG
Mr. Chris Petro – Transportation Planning Manager, NLCOG
Mr. Keith Tindell – LaDOTD District 04
Mr. Alan Bright – SporTran

With due notice, Mayor Walker called the meeting to order. A quorum was not present.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Walker called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

III. Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Walker welcomed the public and the committee members to the meeting.

IV. Public Comments (Agenda Items)

There were no public comments.

V. Old Business
Mr. Rogers discussed the new agenda structure. He stated there will be a section “Project Updates” starting at next month’s meeting. Consultants will attend the meetings and give a brief update of the project to the committee and to the public. For this month, Mr. Rogers gave the following project updates:

### 1. I-49 Inner City Connector

The environmental data necessary for analysis has been gathered in order to compare Build Alternative 5 to Build Alternatives 1-4. Alternative 5 is LA3132 / I-220. Providence has been working on the construction cost estimate for Build Alternative 5 based on interstate standards, traffic, and connectivity. Mayor Walker asked when common sense takes over that this route is more expensive than others. Mr. Rogers stated this has been a lengthy process to ensure that all costs are defensible, since it is reasonable to assume the Loop It group will challenge the EIS. Relative to traffic, one lane in each direction will need to be added to existing LA 3132 and I-220 from the I-49/LA 3132 interchange to the future I-49/I-220 interchange. This includes the Cross Lake Bridge. The flow of the interstate at LA 3132 is in question due to the existing rampage. The connection between existing I-220 and LA 3132 at I-20 will need to be reconstructed to remove curve for free flow purposes. A meeting was held on Wednesday August 13, 2014 to review the design configurations with LaDOTD and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Several comments were received on the interchange configurations at the three major interchanges: existing I-49 @ LA3132, existing I-20@ I-220/LA3132, and future I-49 North @ I-220. The next round of public meetings will likely be held after the New Year starts.

### 2. North Louisiana Passenger Rail

The kickoff meeting was held at NLCOG’s office on July 17, 2014. Initial stakeholders meeting scheduled for early September with one in Shreveport and one in Monroe. Invitations will go out next week to stakeholders. The meetings will be over two days allowing for flexibility. Stakeholder meeting content will be the presentation utilized at the project kickoff.

### 3. LA 3132 Inner Loop Extension Stage 1

Kickoff meeting will be held at NLCOG’s office on Monday, August 18, 2014 with the resource agencies. The agenda is attached for the members. Mr. Rogers stated he received an e-mail from the Finish 3132 Coalition asking why the meeting was not a public meeting. Mr. Rogers explained to the members that the kickoff meetings are typically a working meeting to identify what data is needed, what agency can provide that data and to set project timelines and schedule. Mr. Jones stated he would respond to the e-mail that, according to statutes, this is not a public meeting.

### 4. Long Range Transportation Plan Update

An initial meeting with FHWA, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and LaDOTD was held in Baton Rouge to discuss the format and need for an interim
update due to current plan expiration of mid-November 2014. Mr. Rogers stated FHWA stated the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will then be locked in and no changes can be made. Clarification is still needed from FHWA as to what the interim update needs to include. Mr. Rogers stated there may be a month-lapse, but that should not pose a problem.

5. **Transit Development Plan**

Many one-on-one stakeholder meetings have been held over the past month with some additional to come. Staff anticipates that passenger counter software will be installed on buses in the very near future to assist with some data collection. Mr. Rogers stated the scheduled opening of the new Intermodal Terminal is January 2016 which works well with the plan timeline for any proposed route changes.

VI. **New Business**

Mayor Walker moved the committee into the first order of new business which was the “Kids On the Move!” Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. Mr. Rogers gave a brief background of the program stating that the participating schools complete an education and encouragement program and then infrastructure improvements are made around the schools. Mr. Rogers stated the contractor’s infrastructure improvements are complete at the schools and the required resolution will need to be adopted by the Executive Committee. Since the SRTS program falls under the MPO Transportation Policy Committee, Mr. Rogers requested this committee to recommend the resolution for adoption. Mayor Walker stated since there is not a quorum, they will be unable to move forward.

Mayor Walker moved the committee to the minutes from the June 23, 2014 meeting. As there is no quorum, they will not be able to adopt the minutes. Mr. Rogers stated a correction to Mayor Glover’s ability to vote would be made since he called in and did not have voting privileges.

Mr. Jones stated he would give a brief update on the legal issues. He stated Judge Hicks declared the position that the Stage 0 for LA3132 needs to be re-done is incorrect and premature as no federal action has taken place. After the Stage 1 is completed, and a final federal action, then the public can move forward with an issue with the process.

VII. **Public Comments (Non-agenda Items)**

There were no public comments.

VIII. **Adjourn**

With no further discussions, the members adjourned.

Dr. Wilson arrived at 10:10 a.m., creating a quorum. The members reconvened.

Mr. Rogers gave a brief recap of the new agenda format and project updates. Mayor Walker moved the committee back into new business starting with the “Kids On the Move!” Safe Routes to School resolution. Mr. Rogers gave a brief history of the project and stated the engineering
and construction is complete. He directed the members to the required resolution certifying completion. Dr. Wilson motioned to recommend adoption of the resolution confirming completion of the project to the Executive Committee. Mr. Marsiglia seconded the motion. There was no further discussion; the motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission

The members gave Dr. Wilson time to review the minutes. Dr. Wilson motioned to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2014 meeting as presented; Mr. Marsiglia seconded. There was no further discussion; the motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission

Mayor Walker asked for an update to be given to Dr. Wilson on the e-mail received regarding the LA3132 Stage 1 Kickoff Meeting and the litigation. Mr. Rogers discussed the meeting stating it was a working meeting with technical level staff to go over the scope, what data is needed and who can provide the various datasets. Mr. Jones stated that under the law, certain deliberations are public meetings and this meeting is staff level. Dr. Wilson asked if a citizen shows up for the working meeting, can they be denied entry. Mr. Jones stated yes, as it is no different than a staff meeting and the law does not provide the public a right to be present. Dr. Wilson stated operations of the staff within an organization cannot be impeded. Mr. Jones briefly updated Dr. Wilson on the status of the LA3132 litigation.

With no further discussions, Dr. Wilson motioned to dismiss with Mr. Marsiglia seconding. The members adjourned.

J. Kent Rogers, Secretary
Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee

Minutes

Friday, October 3, 2014 (9:30 a.m.)
First Floor Seminar Room
NLCOG Office, Shreveport Bar Association
625 Texas Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, LA 71101

Members Present
Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury
Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission
Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City
Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC
Mr. Eric England – Port of Shreveport – Bossier
Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran
Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

Others Present
Mr. Jerry Jones – Counsel for NLCOG
Mr. Kent Rogers – Executive Director, NLCOG
Mr. Dinero Washington – SporTran

With due notice, Mayor Walker called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Walker called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Eric England – Port of Shreveport – Bossier; Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

III. Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Walker welcomed the public and the committee members to the meeting. Mr. Rogers introduced Mr. Mark Sweeney, the new executive director of the Shreveport Metropolitan Planning Commission.

IV. Public Comments (Agenda Items)

There were no public comments.

V. Project Updates
Mr. Rogers gave the following project updates:

1. **I-49 Inner City Connector**

   Mr. Rogers directed the members to the diagram of the potential new interchange at I-49 and LA 3132 if Alternate 5 is chosen as the preferred alignment. He stated a minimum of two (2) through lanes for I-49 needed to continue carrying traffic at interstate speeds. FHWA, LaDOTD, and EPA stated the study must look at bringing LA 3132 to the same interstate standards as the build-through options. Mr. Rogers stated a modification to the existing interchange will be needed to avoid creating nightmare for future traffic and there is a possibility that the Linwood Avenue exit would be closed. Mr. Rogers stated Providence med with FHWA and LaDOTD for approvals and that they are now calculating construction figures. They hope to have firm figures by next month. Mr. Rogers stated an interchange is currently under construction at I-220 and I-49 North. He stated analysis shows that there would likely need to be an additional lane added on either side of the Cross Lake Bridge. Mr. Rogers stated public meetings will be held in January to avoid the holiday conflicts. Mr. England asked Mr. Rogers to clarify that this information is in regard to the I-49 Inner City Connector being built through rather than what is being touted as the “No Build” alternative of routing traffic along LA 3132 / I-220 and across the Cross Lake Bridge where additional lanes would be needed. Mr. Rogers affirmed and stated there would need to be three (3) lanes in both directions and add lanes along LA 3132 from Walker Road to the existing I-49. LA 3132 is not currently built to interstate standards and would need to be redone to comply with current standards. He stated there would likely also need to be application for design exceptions, and those are not guaranteed to be approved. Mayor Walker asked where Mr. Rogers received this information. Mr. Rogers stated from Providence and LaDOTD. Mayor Walker asked if the project was close to the Public Hearing. Mr. Rogers affirmed.

2. **North Louisiana Passenger Rail**

   Mr. Rogers stated the Rail study held public meetings in Shreveport and Monroe in September that were well-represented by the public. Mayor Walker stated the Dallas – Fort Worth to Shreveport study is lagging about two-and-a-half years behind. Mr. Rogers stated HNTB met with the Federal Rail Administration and were encouraged about the corridor and route. The is potential funding for a regional planning study for Dallas – Fort Worth to Atlanta. Mayor Walker asked if that route would be single track. Mr. Rogers stated yes with sightings, and if there is enough right-of-way, there could be a second track. HNTB is looking at this scenario in the study. Dr. Wilson asked about the East Texas Council of Governments study. Mayor Walker stated the original study had lower feasibility than expected and that the organization felt the study methodology was flawed and is looking at the connection further.

3. **LA 3132 Inner Loop Extension Stage 1**

   Kickoff meeting held at NLCOG’s office on Monday, August 18, 2014 with the resource agencies. One representative each from the Finish 3132 Coalition and Larkin Development was allowed to attend but not participate as it is a working meeting with technical level staff. Mr. Rogers stated nobody from the Finish 3132 Coalition attended. He stated the staff went through the scope, data needs and identified who would provide the requested data. Mr. Rogers also stated that he had received the Public Participation Plan from Franklin and Associates; staff would review and make comments as needed. He stated the Solicitation of Views (SOV) letters would be mailed out to resource agencies after some minor corrections.
were made per LaDOTD. Mr. Rogers stated BKI would add any of the members’ comments for the purpose and need to the SOVs if needed.

4. Long Range Transportation Plan Update

An initial meeting with FHWA, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and LaDOTD was held in Baton Rouge to discuss the format and need for an interim update due to current plan expiration of mid-November 2014. Mr. Rogers stated FHWA stated the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will then be locked in and no changes can be made. Clarification is still needed from FHWA as to what the interim update needs to include. Mr. Rogers stated there may be a month-lapse, but that should not pose a problem.

5. Transit Development Plan

Mr. Rogers discussed the five public visioning meetings held over the previous two weeks. He said there was low turnout but that the information shared by those attending was good. He asked the members to review the workbook and participant response sheet and to give their feedback as was asked of the public. Mr. Rogers said the consultant, Alliance Transportation Group, met with stakeholders as small groups and individually. Mr. Rogers briefly described the NLCOG Listens website for public comment and described its correlation to all of the projects.

6. Public Transportation Study

Mr. Rogers stated URS is at a standstill on this project due to the passenger counters needing to be installed on the SporTran buses. He said the new intermodal terminal is scheduled to open in April 2016. Mr. Washington stated the groundbreaking is scheduled for December 2014 with the passenger counters and AVL equipment is ready now with the passenger counters ready to be installed in November 2014. Mr. Eddy stated the passenger counters will allow for on-going automatic passenger surveying.

VI. Unfinished Business

Mayor Walker asked about the progress on the local project prioritization this board started 2-3 months ago. He stated at that time the committee all seemed to be supportive of the Barksdale Air Force Base (BAFB) I-20 interchange and tabled a vote at that time due to Mayor Glover not being in attendance. Mr. Rogers stated that as part of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) process, project prioritization process would be an outcome. He stated that when he was in Washington, DC the previous week that interchange was a hot topic for the Louisiana delegation. Mr. Rogers stated the problem at this point is getting the completed interchange justification report and design work allowed by LaDOTD and FHWA. Mr. Rogers stated that the issue seems to be on a technical level as some people are requiring interstate standards on the roadway leading into the base. Mayor Walker asked if this project was identified as the number one priority if that would help. Mr. Rogers stated the project would be included in the LRTP. Mayor Walker asked if the project prioritization and identifying this project as the priority for the region was still unfinished business. He stated the city needs to identify their priority and it would be helpful for NLCOG as the MPO to recognize this project as their priority as well. Dr. Wilson stated that he saw that as helpful, too. Mayor Walker asked that the project prioritization be put on the next committee meeting agenda. Mr. Rogers stated he would put it on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting on October 17. Dr. Wilson asked if the LRTP encompasses selecting priorities. Mr. Rogers stated yes, but that it would not be complete for 12 months. Mayor Walker stated it is imperative that the prioritization of this project is documented by this committee. Dr. Wilson asked Mr. Rogers to bring back to the committee the list and board used awhile back. Mayor Walker asked Mr. Rogers to make sure Mayor
Glover knows that this will be on the agenda and that the vote has been delayed up to this point for his input. Mayor Walker again requested this item on the agenda for October 17.

VII. **New Business**

Mr. Rogers directed the members to the spreadsheets for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 2015 – 2018. Mr. Rogers introduced the TIP and stated that it is subject to a 30-day public comment period. Mr. Rogers discussed the projects and their various phases. He stated the transit element uses FY 2015 as the basic point for the next three years out and that as staff learns the correct amounts for each year due to formulaic fluctuation, the amounts are updated to reflect those accurate numbers. Mr. Rogers stated FY 2015 – 2018 are required in the program and that staff tries to include the previous fiscal year and 1-2 years in the future for planning purposes. Mr. Rogers highlighted in the Planning / Environmental section the amounts for aerial photography and the MAP patrol trucks; in the ROW section the North/South Corridor which began in FY 2013 and the Hamilton Road Phase I improvements; and in the engineering section the lack of projects which is due to less new construction and more maintenance projects. Mr. North stated the bridges are aging rapidly and that there are more projects than funding. Mayor Walker asked Mr. North if the Jimmie Davis Bridge would close in January 2015 for a year. Mr. North affirmed. Mr. Rogers asked when the let date for that project was. Mr. North stated it was supposed to be October, but is now scheduled for November. Mr. Rogers discussed the financial constraint and that the current major projects within funding are the Youree/Kings intersection; Shed Road; Hamilton Road; North/South Corridor; Aerial photography; and the MAP Patrol. Mayor Walker asked if more was being spent than authorized. Mr. Rogers stated no, that all of the projects are within funding levels. Mr. Rogers stated that the committee needs to start looking at using funding to complete safety projects, overlays and other quick projects rather than stockpiling money like in the past to complete major projects (e.g. I-49 North). Mayor Walker asked in the area was in danger of losing money; Mr. Rogers stated not with the current legislation and the way it is written, but that could change with any new transportation bill. Mayor Walker asked how the public is informed about the TIP. Mr. Rogers stated it is posted to NLCOG’s website, printed copies are available in the office and press releases are sent out.

Mayor Walker moved the committee to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2014 meeting. Mr. Altimus motioned to approve the minutes as presented with Mr. Eddy seconding. There was not further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

* Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Eric England – Port of Shreveport – Bossier; Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

VIII. **Public Comments (Non-agenda Items)**

There were no public comments.

IX. **Adjourn**

With no further discussions, Dr. Wilson motioned to dismiss with Mr. Altimus seconding. The members adjourned.

J. Kent Rogers, Secretary
Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee

Minutes

Friday, October 17, 2014 (9:30 a.m.)
First Floor Seminar Room
NLCOG Office, Shreveport Bar Association
625 Texas Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, LA 71101

Members Present
Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury
Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission
Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City
Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC
Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran
Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

Others Present
Mr. Jerry Jones – Counsel for NLCOG
Mr. Kent Rogers – Executive Director, NLCOG
Mr. Dale Sibley – City of Shreveport
Mr. Bruce Easterly – consultant to BPPJ

With due notice, Mayor Walker called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Walker called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

III. Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Walker welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

IV. Public Comments (Agenda Items)

There were no public comments.
V. Project Updates

Mr. Rogers spoke about the upcoming interactive website www.nlcoolistens.com which is being developed for the major projects currently in progress. He explained that the website will capture feedback from the public and will eventually provide impact scenarios for the public to manipulate. He stated it is the intent to go live with the site by the end of the following week. Mr. Rogers briefly navigated through the site for the members to see each of the content areas. Mr. Rogers stated that under the Passenger Rail Feasibility Study section, the public is able to see the process and potential sites. In the future, there will be the ability for the public to rank the sites and view how others have ranked them. Mr. Rogers noted the public can sign up for project updates and the contact information will be sent to the appropriate project team. Mr. Rogers discussed the main sections: Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), North Louisiana Passenger Rail (NLPR), SporTran Transit Development Plan (TDP), and the Mega Projects.

Dr. Wilson asked if this site would be in addition to the www.nlco.org website. Mr. Rogers stated that it would be at this point, but the plan is to migrate from the current website into this platform. They will be linked for now.

Mr. Rogers gave the following project updates:

1. I-49 North

Ribbon cutting is set for noon on November 10 at the Louisiana – Arkansas state line. Both governors are expected to attend. I-49 North will then be open from LA 1 near Blanchard, LA to Texarkana, AR. The final two segments (J and K) are under construction with anticipated opening in Fiscal Year 2016-2017. Dr. Wilson asked when the I-220 to LA 1 segment would be under construction. Mr. Bruce Easterly stated the work order date is November 3 and the consultant is prepping now. Mr. Rogers stated the I-220 to LA 1 segment is divided into three separate projects and that clearing and grubbing is occurring at the interchange at MLK. Dr. Wilson asked when that segment would open. Mr. North stated approximately three (3) years.

2. I-49 Inner City Connector (ICC)

 Completed Stage 0 in process of Stage 1 (NEPA). Following the round of public meetings last year there was a formal request to determine what it would take to use I-220 and LA 3132 as I-49 loop around the city (Alternative 5). In addition, there was a request to perform an economic impact analysis on the two basic options (new build vs. I-220/LA3132). The consulting team has been working with FHWA/DOTD to determine the needs for the Loop-It option. Initial indications are that there is a need for additional lanes the whole direction (including the Cross Lake Bridge), there will need to be some reworking of the I-20/I-220/LA 3132 interchange to smooth the curve, most of LA 3132 will have to be redone and there will be significant changes to the I-49/LA 3132 interchange. Mayor Walker asked if it would be an oversimplification to say Alternative 5 is more expensive than any of the other options. Mr. Rogers stated that is the case, the alternative is creating issues with adding lanes to the bridge and ramp configurations at I-49 North. These issues include adding lanes and more pilings to the lake. Mayor Walker asked when official information would be available to the public. Mr. Rogers stated after the New Year there would be public meetings. Mayor Walker asked when the cost data would be available. Mr. Rogers stated early January 2015. Mr. Altimus asked if the Housing Authority had begun building the new housing project. Mr. Rogers stated they had. Mr. Sibley added the framing is up. Mayor Walker asked about the effect of the project in the alignments. Mr. Rogers stated it impacts three of the five alignments.
Dr. Wilson asked why the Housing Authority would begin this project knowing a study is currently underway; he added that the sentiment given was that they would have to be bought out later. Mr. Sibley stated that in meetings with the LaDOTD and HUD they stated the uncertainty on the I-49 ICC would not cause them to stop building. Dr. Wilson stated the parish had land available and that they could have worked with the Housing Authority and HUD on a site. Mr. Rogers stated Bonnie Moore with Community Development had tried to work with the group over the years. He stated their main issue was having the exact same amount of land in a contiguous area.

3. **North Louisiana Passenger Rail**

Mr. Rogers stated the Rail study held public meetings in Shreveport and Monroe in September that were well-represented by the public.

4. **LA 3132 Inner Loop Extension Stage 1**

Kickoff meeting held at NLCOG’s office on Monday, August 18, 2014 with the resource agencies. He stated the Solicitation of Views (SOV) letters would be mailed out to resource agencies after some minor corrections were made per LaDOTD. The agencies would have 30 days to respond to the letters. Mr. Rogers stated the SOV letter outlines the study area and project background and does not indicate any alignments. Mr. Rogers outlined the study area as Bert Kouns Industrial Loop to the River and Ellerbe Road to South Caddo Parish line.

5. **Long Range Transportation Plan Update**

First round of public outreach held over a two-week period. There were total of 5 meetings in various locations throughout the area and at various times to allow for maximum participation. Online participation to begin soon via the previously-discussed website.

6. **SporTran Transit Development Plan**

Many one-on-one stakeholder meetings have been held. We anticipate that passenger counter software to be installed on buses in the very near future to assist with some data collection. We are looking at November 18th or 20th for initial public outreach meeting. Mr. Rogers stated the new terminal would open at the end of next year. Mr. Eddy stated bids go out next week.

VI. **Unfinished Business**

Mayor Walker moved the committee to the Unfinished Business. Mr. Rogers directed the members to the Mega Projects Summary in their committee packet. Mr. Rogers reviewed the status of the I-49 ICC and stated that there could be a Record of Decision (ROD) by the end of next year. Mayor Walker asked if there was significance to the colors on the chart. Mr. Rogers stated that the projects with more green have a better standing as far as studies completed, funding options, etc. Mr. Easterly questioned that there would be a ROD at the end of 2015. Mr. Rogers stated that if all goes well, that is what he expects. Mr. Easterly stated that timeline is not realistic as reviews from the various agencies can take up to a year to receive. Mr. Rogers stated that he expects a legal challenge from the Loop It group if the ROD is not favorable.

Mr. Rogers discussed the I-69 Section of Independent (SIU) 15 – Haughton to Stonewall (I-20 to US 171). A Record of Decision (ROD) was signed August 28, 2014. Based on the analysis and evaluation presented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed project, after
careful consideration of all the social, economic, and environmental factors and input from other agencies, organizations and the public, and the factors and project commitments and mitigation measures outlined, it is the decision of the FHWA to approve the Selected Alignment, Draft EIS Preferred Alignment (Line6), with minor modifications, for the SIU 15. The MPO's 2012 Transportation Improvement Program allocated funding for preliminary engineering for Segment 3 from La 1 to US 71 including the Red River Bridge crossing. The MPO will also be working to develop a corridor preservation plan for all of SIU 15. A Project Management Plan is being developed. Part of this process is to identify segments for implementation and a prioritization of those segments. SIU 15 is divided into 5 segments recommending the following Priority for implementation:

Segment 3 – Red River Crossing LA 1 to US 71
Segment 2 – I-49 to LA 1
Segment 4 – US 71 to LA 157
Segment 5 – LA 157 to I-20
Segment 1 – US 171 to I-49

Mr. Altimus asked if there was funding for the bridge. Mr. Rogers stated there is some funding available for Segment 3 – approximately $20 million. Mr. Rogers briefly discussed I-69 SIU 14 – El Dorado, AR to Haughton, LA (US 82 to I-20). A Record of Decision (ROD) was signed April 27, 2012. Based on the analysis and evaluation presented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed project, after consideration of all the social, economic, and environmental factors and input from other agencies, organizations and the public, and the factors and project commitments and mitigation measures outlined in the Final Environmental Impact Study, FHWA approved the selection of the Alternative 4 with Option 3. Mayor Walker cautioned that Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) are needed sooner rather than later to preserve the corridors. He asked if there was an MOU for SIU 14 corridor preservation. Mr. Rogers stated there was not and that LaDOTD discussed moving both projects forward together. Mr. Rogers discussed I-69 SIU 16 – Stonewall, LA to Tenaha TX (US 171 to US 59).

Texas is the lead agency on the formal environmental process for SIU 16. The MPO has been working with the two state DOTs to help further this work in Louisiana. Mr. Rogers stated an option is to use a portion of the earmarked funds to move forward with the environmental work on this SIU. Mr. Easterly stated this committee may need to ask LaDOTD to request a release from TxDOT in order to move this project forward.

Mr. Rogers discussed the LA 3132 Inner Loop Extension which is now in the Stage 1. He said the Stage 0 identified four potential options, but that the Stage 1 would look at any and all options within the study area. He stated the options ranged from $60 – 100 million. The options fell into two categories: tying into LA 1 and tying into I-69. He stated this study is still 18-24 months from completion.

Mr. Rogers discussed the LA 511 Jimmie Davis Bridge rehab. The initial project was based off the Stage 0 Feasibility study. This was to replace the existing bridge with a new facility or major rehab to existing and build of sister span. Funding has been secured for the major rehab of the existing facility ($20+ million) so the emphasis in the Stage 1 NEPA is to provide for a sister span. The cost of the additional span ranges from $50 - $80 million. Dr. Wilson asked when the rehab would start. Mr. North stated that the project would be out letting on November 12. Mayor Walker asked if the bridge would still close in January for one year. Mr. North stated yes. Mr. Rogers stated the study would include bicycle and pedestrian connections for both sides of the river.
Mr. Rogers discussed the I-220 Barksdale Gate Access. He stated there is an MOU in place now with all of the interested parties. The current East Gate, where all commercial trucks and many privately-owned vehicles enter Barksdale, is too close to the flight line and poses a security risk. It is an incompatible land use within the Barksdale AFB Air Installation Compatibility Land Use Zone and Accident Potential Zone 1, and creates a higher risk of injury/death from aircraft accidents. This site does not allow for proper gate improvements to minimize unauthorized infiltration into the base from this gate. Deficiencies include insufficient queuing distance before the check point, inability to add “traffic calming” turns/barriers prior to the checkpoint and insufficient distance after the checkpoint for entrapment of unauthorized intruders. Several iterations of the FHWA required Interchange Modification Report have been completed. An MOU between all parties has been entered into for the completion of the Environmental Work. This work is being headed up through DOD and contract with URS. The principle need has been heighten with the soon to be announced BAFB Four Star General. With this the operations and the base will expand greatly. The biggest issue is getting a waiver/design exception granted to use the previous design work for the interchange. The cost ranges from $50 million to $80 million depending on the design standards required. A portion of the total project will be funded through DOD funds and potential use of US DOT Federal Lands funding.

Mr. Rogers moved the committee into the series of projects:

The I-20 Shreveport – Texas State Line to Pines Road project entails widening I-20 from the Texas state line to Pines Road to 6-lanes. There are two current projects in this area including a $7 million maintenance project for this area for some cold plane & overlay and pccp patching. There is also a roughly $1 million project to extend the exit lanes at exits 3 and 5. In addition there is a project in design to widen from Pines Road 3.2 miles to the west. This project is estimated at $15 million with no current letting. At roughly $5 m/mile with 6.5 miles addition to the state line this project would need an additional $32.5 million for completion.

The I-20 Shreveport – Red River Bridge I-49 to Hamilton Road project entails widening I-20 Red River Bridge to 6-lanes. This would also entail the section from the bridge to I-49. This project would likely entail the reconfiguration of the Spring/Market Street interchange. Estimate is $135 million.

The I-20 Bossier – LA 3 to I-220 project entails widening I-20 from just west of the LA 3 (Benton Road) exit through the I-220 interchange to 6-lanes. There is currently a $30 million project to do bridge rehab work along this section from Westerfield to Industrial. This project is scheduled for FY 2017-2018 and does not include widening the bridges. Current estimate for widening from I-220 to Airline is $94 million. The most complicated portion of this whole project is the section between Airline and Benton. No current estimate for this section.

The I-20 Bossier – I-220 to Future I-69 project entails widening I-20 from just east of the I-220 interchange to the future I-69 interchange from 4-lanes to 6-lanes. Using the roughly $5 million/mile estimate from Texas Line to Pines Road project this would be $50+ million.

The I-20 Bossier – Future I-69 to Minden project entails widening I-20 from the future I-69 interchange to Minden, LA from 4-lanes to 6-lanes. Estimate would be $100+ million.

Mr. Rogers asked if the members had any questions. Dr. Wilson asked if the total to complete all of the projects is about $2-4 billion. Mr. Rogers stated the current LRTP estimated $4 billion for all of the mega projects. Mayor Walker asked for a motion. Mr. Altimus stated all of the projects are
worthy and he feels the BAFB/I-20 interchange is the most doable as it has an economic impact and a significant impact overall. Mr. Altimus motioned that the committee prioritize the BAFB/I-20 interchange as the number one priority. Dr. Wilson seconded. Dr. Wilson asked that when the committee selects a number one priority from the list, will the other projects remain priorities. Mr. Rogers stated yes they would; he suggested looking at the projects as short-term and long-term. Mayor Walker stated the projects would remain as priorities until the committee selects a number one again. Dr. Wilson stated he would like to see I-49 ICC as the next number one priority. Mr. Rogers stated all of the projects will continue moving in their process regardless of the priority selection. Dr. Wilson stated there is no other funding beyond the unclaimed property fund for I-49 ICC. Mr. Altimus stated there may be additional in the future. Mr. Sibley asked for clarification as to what designating a number one priority does. Mr. Rogers stated the rationale or more urgency is due to the upcoming LaDOTD Roadshow meeting next week (October 22) and having a united voice behind one project. Mr. Sibley stated the mayor looked at what project would have the greatest impact on the region and felt I-69 would fill those criteria. Mr. Jones asked if this project would become Northwest Louisiana number one for capital outlay. Mr. Rogers stated yes. Mayor Walker stated that as a region it is important to be unified behind one project to request funding from the legislators. Mr. Easterly stated he agreed with all of the comments, but that at the earliest it would be 15 years before I-69 is completed, but that the committee needs to consider the lack of access to the base without encountering the railroad tracks. He also stated there are other projects going on at BAFB that this entrance would enhance and bring an economic impact to the community. He further stated that this region of the state has the best transportation system in the state because of the unified voice they’ve had over the years. Mayor Walker stated anything the committee to do to help BAFB is necessary due to the military cuts that are coming sooner or later. He called the committee to vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

Mr. Jones asked how this would be communicated to the powers-that-be. Mayor Walker stated a letter would be appropriate. Dr. Wilson motioned to direct Mr. Rogers to draft a letter to present to LaDOTD stating this project as the number one priority for the region; Mr. Altimus seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

Mayor Walker requested the letter be sent to him as soon as possible. Dr. Wilson asked if Mr. Rogers would attend and/or speak at the meeting on October 22. Mr. Rogers said he would be in attendance.

VII. New Business

Mayor Walker directed the members to the Fiscal Year 2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) amendment. Mr. Rogers introduced the amendment which is for a Regional Safety Coalition. He stated the amendment is subject to a 30-day public comment period. Mr. Rogers stated the funding is 100% through LaDOTD. He stated the project description is the same across all of the MPOs in the state with the intent to expand the state coalition on a regional level. He stated it fits in closely with the Traffic Incident Management committee. Mr. Rogers stated he anticipated February
as the earliest when funds would be available after the approval and contract period. Mr. Sibley asked if he read correctly that someone would need to be hired. Mr. Rogers stated that the funding does cover a position.

Mayor Walker moved the committee to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2014 meeting. Mr. Altimus motioned to approve the minutes as presented with Dr. Wilson seconding. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

VIII. Public Comments (Non-agenda Items)

There were no public comments. Mr. Dan Broussard, LaDOTD, stated it was critical that LaDOTD get the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) document finalized and sent to them. Mr. Broussard asked if it was 30 days from October 3. Mr. Rogers stated the period started on October 5. Mr. Broussard stated projects for Shreveport/Bossier City are not in the Statewide TIP (STIP) and they cannot authorize funding until the TIP is received. Mayor Walker asked if the document is sent to LaDOTD the day after the comment period ends, would that help. Mr. Broussard stated it would take some time to get the projects in the STIP, a couple of weeks usually. Mayor Walker asked if the STIP could be amended. Mr. Broussard stated it is a routine process. Mr. Rogers stated no projects are scheduled during the lapse, the money is already obligated. Mayor Walker asked if the document was submitted electronically. Mr. Rogers stated LaDOTD already has a copy of the draft.

IX. Adjourn

With no further discussions, Dr. Wilson motioned to adjourn with a five (5) minute break with Mr. Eddy seconding. The members adjourned.

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J. Kent Rogers, Secretary
With due notice, Mayor Walker called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Walker called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

III. Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Walker welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

IV. Public Comments (Agenda Items)

There were no public comments.

V. Project Updates

1. I-49 North
Mr. Rogers stated that I-49 North from La 1 to the Louisiana Arkansas line was now open and that traffic could now travel between Shreveport and Texarkana on interstate highway. The remaining sections of I-49 North (Sections J & K) are under construction and should be open 2016 timeframe.

2. **I-49 Inner City Connector (ICC)**

Mr. Rogers stated that the packets included a factsheet on the I-49 Inner City project provided by Providence Engineering. Mr. Rogers explained that the consulting team was doing a very detailed analysis of the Loop-It alternative. Contrary to information being spread by a coalition of folks the Inner Loop/I-220 option is not a no cost option. Initial analysis is showing that it will be substantially more than the build thru option. The primary locations of concern are the bridge over Cross Lake and the Inner Loop @ I-49 interchange. Most of this interchange will need to be completely reconstructed to allow for free flow interstate travel.

3. **North Louisiana Passenger Rail**

Mr. Rogers stated that there was nothing new to add to the rail project at this time.

4. **LA 3132 Inner Loop Extension Stage 1**

Mr. Rogers stated that staff and the consulting team are waiting on some approvals and comments from DOTD and FHWA with regards to the Solicitation of Views letter. As soon as all comments are addressed these letter will go out.

5. **Long Range Transportation Plan Update**

JD Allen with the Alliance Transportation gave an overview of the process. He stated the public outreach meetings have already been held throughout the area. The community vision has not changed much over the years. The Travel Demand Model will change significantly by integrating a mode choice component that will benefit SporTran. He stated they will try to incorporate the land use plans from the planning groups of the local cities and parishes into their planning effort. Mayor Walker asked if they are looking into using rail. Mr. Allen stated they were, but were focusing more on freight transportation. Mayor Walker asked about usage of a passenger rail. Mr. Allen reported they were on the team for forecasting the ridership for the freight study. He stated the Current Plan Update for 2035 is almost complete. Mr. Rogers plans to call a special meeting in December to introduce the plan to the committee. The final plan will be able to be adopted in the fall of next year. There were no questions of comments after the presentation.

6. **SporTran Transit Development Plan**

Keith Jones with URS gave the update. The study started with the moving of the terminal and adjusting routes. Mr. Jones stated the bids opened on the November 20th and the new
terminal should be open in early 2016. They also held a public outreach meeting on 20th
with more than 50 participants. The public voted for areas needing more and better
service. There will be a second round of meetings after January 1st. The automatic
passenger counters will be operational no later than January. Mr. Jones stated they may
need a no-cost extension of the study to allow for more data collection. Mr. Rogers stated
he's been receiving good comments about Google Transit. Mr. Eddy commented it is not out
to the public yet because they are still working out some bugs in AVL.

Mayor Glover arrived at 10:03.

Mr. Allen identified types of locations where people want to go and commented that there
were few locations outside the quarter mile buffer of the existing route. Mr. Garrick Rose
with URS stated he received positive comments about the service. Mr. Jones had a series of
one-on-one stakeholder meetings that have been very productive. There were no questions
of comments after the presentation.

VI. Unfinished Business

Mr. Rogers stated the only item is the resolution for the adoption of the Transportation
Improvement Program for 2015-2018. The only public comment we received was on the initial
version that was missing due to formatting which we've corrected. Comments from DOTD were to
make sure the project names were consistent.

Dr. Wilson motioned to approve the Resolution of Adoption of the Transportation Improvement
Program for 2015-2018; seconded by Mr. Altimus. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish
Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Cedric Glover – City of Shreveport;
Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Gene Eddy –
SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

VII. New Business

Mayor Walker directed the members to the first order of new business which was the I-69 SIU 14
and 15 Corridor Preservation. Mr. Rogers stated we had a line item in the ROD SIU 15 to do some
corridor preservation work. There is not enough Earmarked moneys left to purchase all of the
right-of-way. We'd like to work with the cities, parishes, and MPCs to put together ordinances, set
back regulations, etc. to hold the 14 and 15 corridors. We're asking for funding from the Earmarked
moneys to move forward. Mayor Walker asked who controls the Earmarked moneys. Mr. Rogers
stated it is Federal moneys DOTD controls; the request is to Secretary LeBas.

Dr. Wilson motioned to approve the Request use of Federal Earmarked funds to develop Corridor
Preservation Plans for I-69 SIU's 14 and 15 within Louisiana; seconded by Mayor Glover. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish
Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Cedric Glover – City of Shreveport;
Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

Mayor Walker moved on to the next item, I-69 SIU 16 NEPA Environmental Impact Study, stating it is in our best interest to start this process. Mr. Rogers stated in his request to Secretary LeBas, Texas DOT is ignoring this portion of the project and asked to start the environmental document for the portion that is in Louisiana. Mayor Walker gave a brief overview of the project.

Dr. Wilson motioned to approve the Request use of Federal Earmarked funds for the development of a Stage 1 NEPA Environmental Impact Study for I-69 SIU 16 within Louisiana; seconded by Mayor Glover. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Cedric Glover – City of Shreveport; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

Mayor Walker asks for the members to review the minutes of the October 17, 2014 meeting. Mr. Eddy motioned to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2014 meeting as presented; seconded by Mr. Altimus. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Cedric Glover – City of Shreveport; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

VIII. Public Comments (Non-agenda Items)

There were no public comments.

IX. Adjourn

With no further discussions, Mayor Walker motioned to adjourn. The members adjourned.

________________________________________________________
J. Kent Rogers, Secretary
Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee

Minutes

Thursday December 18, 2014 (9:00 a.m.)
First Floor Seminar Room
NLCOG Office, Shreveport Bar Association
625 Texas Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, LA 71101

Members Present
Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury
Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission
Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City
Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC
Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran
Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

Others Present
Mr. Jerry Jones – Counsel for NLCOG
Mr. Kent Rogers – Executive Director, NLCOG

With due notice, Mayor Walker called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Walker called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

III. Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Walker welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

IV. Public Comments (Agenda Items)

There were no public comments.

V. Unfinished Business

Mayor Walker asked Mr. Rogers to give an update regarding the Fiscal Year 2015 Work Program Amendment. Mr. Rogers stated an amendment to our Work Program for the Northwest Louisiana Safety Coalition was brought up in the October meeting. Total funding would come from LaDOTD.
The State is organizing Regional Coalitions to do public outreach and safety training. We received no public comment after the 30-day public comment period. Mayor Walker asked to have a motion to hear further comment on the subject. Dr. Wilson motioned to discuss the issue; Mr. Eddy seconded. Mayor Walker allowed the discussion to continue. Mr. Rogers stated the Regional Safety Coalition has been established in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and the Houma area. Mayor Walker asked if biannual meant twice a year or every two years. Mr. Rogers stated that it should be twice a year and would change the wording to semiannual. Mayor Walker asked if the funding is available for the position. Mr. Rogers stated the funding is 100% through LaDOTD. A contract with LaDOTD for the funding will have to be signed, but we need the resolution to pass before it can be signed. It should take several months for the contract to be processed. It is a renewable three or four year contract. Mayor Walker asked if there were any further comments from the board and the audience. No comments were made. Mayor Walker called to approve the Resolution of Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2015 Work Program Amendment for the Regional Safety Coalition. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

VI. New Business

Mayor Walker directed the members to the Long Range Transportation Plan Update 2015. Dr. Wilson motioned to consider the motion; Mr. Eddy seconded. Mayor Walker asked Mr. Rogers to give an update. Mr. Rogers stated that Alliance Transportation Group has been hired to do the full Long Range Plan Update. In order to stay current with the Long Range Transportation Plan as it nears the 20 year horizon, we need to update it to finish the regular process. Mr. J.D. Allen with Alliance Transportation Group gave a presentation on the Update to the Current Long Range Transportation Plan. The update would extend the timeline of the current plan. Mayor Walker asked about year of expenditure. Mr. Allen stated it is noting which year you will expend each of the dollar types. It is time management and looking at inflation. Showing what years you will spend money. Mr. Allen stated that there weren’t any new projects added. Mayor Walker asked if there were any questions. Mr. Jones asked about the population growth numbers. Mr. Allen explained the numbers came from looking at a control total from the State, Woods and Poole Economics projections, Census Bureau projections, and other sources and creating a control total for 2035 population. The Delphi method, a group of community experts, will be used for a consensus of growth later. Mr. Jones asked if the numbers were straight trending trend analyst. Mr. Allen stated they never do that. Dr. Wilson asked if the Caddo Parish Commission board could get an explanation of the growth factors. Mr. Allen stated he would, but Dr. Wilson should wait until after the Delphi group came up with a good projection for 2035. Dr. Wilson asked about the 2025 growth in Caddo Parish. Mr. Allen replied that anything prior to 2030 came out of the last Delphi five years ago. Mayor Walker asked if there were any further questions or comments; no comments were made. Mayor Walker stated since we had an addition to the public, he invited the public to make any comments on the agenda items. No comments were made. Mayor Walker called to approve the motion to introduce the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments Long-Range Transportation Plan 2035 Update for public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04
VII. Public Comments (Non-agenda Items)

There were no public comments.

VIII. Adjourn

With no further discussions, Dr. Wilson motioned to adjourn with Mr. Eddy seconding. The members adjourned.

J. Kent Rogers, Secretary
Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee

Minutes

Friday, January 16, 2015 (9:30 a.m.)
First Floor Seminar Room
NLCOG Office, Shreveport Bar Association
625 Texas Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, LA 71101

Members Present
Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury
Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission
Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City
Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport
Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC
Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC
Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran
Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

Others Present
Mr. Steven Jackson – Assistant for City of Shreveport Mayor
Ms. Lauren McKnight – Legal Counsel for NLCOG
Mr. Kent Rogers – Executive Director, NLCOG

With due notice, Mayor Walker called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Walker called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

III. Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Walker welcomed Mayor Tyler and the committee members to the meeting. The committee members introduced themselves to Mayor Tyler.

IV. Public Comments (Agenda Items)

There were no public comments.
V. Unfinished Business
Mayor Walker requested the committee to consider the approval of the Resolution of Adoption of the Northwest Louisiana Long-Range Transportation Plan 2035 Update before the Project Updates because Mayor Tyler had to leave early. Mr. Altimus made the motion; Dr. Wilson seconded. Mr. Rogers gave a brief update on the process. The adoption of the plan would bring everything up to date so we can continue working on projects. The only public comment we received was to change the meeting time to after work hours instead of during work hours. The projects in the Transportation Improvement Program will be authorized for this year and be able to move forward. There were no questions. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

VI. Project Updates

1. I-49 Inner City Connector (ICC)
Mr. Rogers gave a brief update on the I-49 North at the 220 interchange. Mr. Rogers explained that Providence Engineering and the consulting team are doing a very detailed analysis of the design standards for the Loop-It alternative. They are planning a meeting with DOTD and Federal Highways to discuss the options. We will be working on scheduling the next round of five public meetings in March. After the public meetings are completed, we hope a preferred alternative will become apparent that DOTD can sign off on to move forward with environmental documents. That process should take about nine months to a year.

2. North Louisiana Passenger Rail
Skip James the Director of Transportation from Aillet, Fenner, Jolly & McClelland gave a brief update on the passenger rail feasibility study from Shreveport to Vicksburg. Mayor Walker informed Mayor Tyler the passenger rail with hopefully go from Meridian, MS to Marshall, TX, but it is still a concept at this point. Mayor Walker told Mayor Tyler the Representative Burrell has helped get the money from the State Legislature for the study from Texas to Mississippi. Part of the study is to determine if the passenger rail can be scheduled around the cargo train. Dr. Wilson asked if the intermodal site would be ruled out as a station. Mr. James stated that the intermodal site is not adjacent to the railroad. Mr. Sweeney asked if this site is the recommendation of the consultants and no decision has been made about the actual site. Mr. James answered yes. Mayor Tyler asked if the feasibility study has been completed and the recommendation was a result. Mr. James answered that the site recommendation will be in the feasibility report they produce for review. Mr. Sweeney asked if the other sites are included in the study. Mr. James responded that they will compare all the sites. Mayor Walker asked wherever the site is located, if the city or parish will have to build the terminal. Mr. James responded yes. Mr. Altimus asked if one day of collection data will be sufficient to know the train schedule. Mr. James replied that it should, but if it wasn't then they would do another day of collection. Dr. Wilson asked
if it was a win-win for the freight and passenger rail. Mr. James responded yes. Mayor Walker informed Mayor Tyler East Texas folks got us interested in a passenger rail. Texas DOTD estimate traffic on I-20 increase by 70% by 2021 so by then passenger rail would be more important. Dr. Wilson stated that the train would go to the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport at a nominal cost. Mr. Sweeney also stated that the train would connect to Union Station which connects with DART which will take you all the way to Terminal A at the airport so you wouldn’t need a car.

3. **LA 3132 Inner Loop Extension Stage 1**

Mr. Rogers stated the Solicitation of Views letter went out to different resource agencies and interested parties, about eighty people total. They have roughly a month to respond. Once completed, we’re looking at March or April for the first series of our public outreach on the project. The consultants will go through the alternatives, any additional information, and give a timeline for the project. The only outstanding legal issue is the ruling on transferring the case to the Baton Rouge courts.

4. **Long Range Transportation Plan Update**

Mayor Walker asked if we already completed this topic with the approval of the resolution earlier. Mr. Rogers stated yes, but would like to add that on February 5th the initial Delphi meeting will take place at the Bossier City Civic Center to look at and discuss growth patterns throughout the region.

5. **Transit Development Plan**

Mr. Rogers stated the entire study is about 30-45% complete. SporTran has recently installed passenger counters to track where passengers get on and off the buses which helps determine travel patterns. SporTran will use the information to better serve the population. The public meeting downtown had a large turnout. Mr. Eddy stated people were there before the doors were open. Mr. Eddy also stated that the passenger counters should be up and running by March and will be able to use them for years to come. Mayor Walker stated with how many people are riding you will know what size vehicle you need to service the area. Mr. Eddy responded yes, you can make a number of determinations. We will be acting as a medium to large transit system with these counters installed.

**VII. New Business**

Mayor Walker asks for the members to review the minutes of the November 21, 2014 and December 28, 2014 meetings. Dr. Wilson motioned to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2014 and December 28, 2014 meetings as presented; seconded by Mayor Tyler. The motion passed unanimously.

*Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04*
VIII. Public Comments (Non-agenda Items)

Mayor Walker asked the public if anyone would like to make a comment. Commissioner Matthew Linn asked if the counters for the buses count bicycles that are loaded and unloaded. Mr. Eddy commented he did not know, but he did not think they did. Dr. Wilson commented the counters are interior and the bikes are exterior. Mr. Eddy explained how the counters work. Mr. Rogers remarked if there were a few individuals getting on the bus, but the bus staying an extended period of time that it is either an ADA reason or someone loading or unloading a bike. Dr. Wilson asked if Mr. Eddy could take a look into a method to collecting the bicycle information. Mr. Eddy responded yes.

IX. Adjourn

With no further discussions, Dr. Wilson motioned to adjourn with Mr. Eddy seconding. The members adjourned.

J. Kent Rogers, Secretary
Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee

Minutes

Friday, March 20, 2015 (9:00 a.m.)
First Floor Seminar Room
NLCOG Office, Shreveport Bar Association
625 Texas Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, LA 71101

Members Present
Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury
Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission
Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City
Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport
Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC
Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC
Mr. Dinero Washington – SporTran
Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

Others Present
Mr. Steven Jackson – Assistant for City of Shreveport Mayor
Ms. Anna O’Neal – Legal Counsel for NLCOG
Mr. Kent Rogers – Executive Director, NLCOG

With due notice, Mayor Walker called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Walker called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Dinero Washington – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

III. Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Walker welcomed the public and the committee members to the meeting.

IV. Public Comments (Agenda Items)

There were no public comments.

V. Project Updates
1. **I-49 Inner City Connector (ICC)**

Mr. Rogers gave a brief update regarding the I-49 Inner City Connector.

2. **North Louisiana Passenger Rail**

Mr. Rogers reported that Mr. Alan Tobias, HNTB’s Project Manager for this project passed away suddenly. Due to this unfortunate circumstance, the firm has to do some regrouping and reassigning of duties. They are asking for a 60 day contract extension with a final report expected to be delivered the week of July 10, 2015.

3. **LA 3132 Inner Loop Extension Stage 1**

Paul Waidhas with Burk-Kleinverter, Inc. gave a brief summary on the Stage 1 Environmental Assessment for the LA 3132 Inner Loop Expressway. Mr. Altimus asked what a UST was. Mr. Waidhas responded ‘underground storage tank;’ probably old gas stations on LA 1. Mr. Altimus asked about handling archeological sites that cannot be dodged. Mr. Waidhas stated it depends on the site, but in most cases you are required to go through a process where you document what you find, artifacts are excavated and provided to the State where they will be recorded and either put in a museum or storage. Mayor Tyler asked if we are in the Stage 1 of the 3132 extension. Mr. Waidhas replied yes. Mayor Tyler asked who gets to make the final decision about the route. Mr. Waidhas stated the final decision would be up to NLCOG and DOTD. Mayor Tyler questioned if it was a partnership. Mr. Waidhas replied yes. Mr. Rogers stated that Federal Highways (FHWA) has to concur with the decision. Mayor Walker asked about the sequence of approval. Mr. Rogers replies he thinks it’s a consensus type of thing. Mayor Tyler asked if NLCOG makes a recommendation then it goes to FHWA. Mr. Rogers stated yes and FHWA would have to concur with it. At the end of the study, we hope FHWA issues a FONSI, Finding of No Significant Impact, or Record of Decision which would state which alignment is agreed upon and FHWA will support, and how exactly it has to be done. Mayor Walker asked if our recommendation has to go to DOTD first then go to FHWA. Mr. Rogers stated he was unsure. Mr. Waidhas replied NLCOG, DOTD, and FHWA all together at the Advisory Committee meeting where everyone would share their concerns. Then a formal recommendation would be submitted hopefully culminating in a FONSI which FHWA signs off on contributing to fund. Mayor Walker asked about the members of the Advisory committee. Mr. Waidhas responded the committee is made up of NLCOG, DOTD, FHWA, as well as other local parishes. Mr. Rogers commented the Advisory Committee is made up of our Technical Committee and members from FHWA, DOTD, EPA, and the Corps. Mayor Walker asked if they make recommendations to this committee. Mr. Rogers confirmed. Mayor Walker asked Mr. Rogers if he could prepare a document before the next meeting explaining the approval process and who makes the final decision. Mr. Rogers agreed to do so. Mayor Tyler asked if it's the same process for I-49. Mr. Rogers confirmed. Mayor Tyler asked if we were still in Stage 1 for I-49. Mr. Rogers confirmed.
4. Long Range Transportation Plan Update
J.D. Allen with Alliance Transportation Group gave a brief update on the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update. Back in January, we adopted a current update to the 2035 Plan to be able to continue the work being done. Mayor Walker asked for an explanation of the Delphi Process. Mr. Allen explained the Delphi Process involves a variety of local industries, agencies, and organizations discussing and calculating the population and employment forecast for 2040. Caddo Parish was interesting in a more detailed look at bike specific issues. They provided a little money to hire Bud Melton to create primarily a bike plan. Robert Westerman would like to provide a little more money for Mr. Melton to create a full Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan.

5. Transit Development Plan
Mr. Keith Jones with AECOM (URS) asked the committee for a six month, no cost extension so they can receive passenger count and origin destination data from SporTran which would provide better and more accurate data for use in the analysis.

VI. Unfinished Business
Mayor Walker asked if there was any unfinished business. Mr. Rogers replied no.

VII. New Business
Mayor Walker moved the committee to the first order of new business which was the Transportation Improvement Program Amendment. Mayor Walker discussed the City of Bossier City has been working for about thirteen years to complete the Hamilton Road Project which has not provided timely results. The City of Bossier City is considering paying for the project themselves and using the Federal funds on other highly needed projects within Bossier City. Mark Hudson, City Engineer for Bossier City, confirmed Mayor Walker's comments. He also stated they would like to accomplish three smaller projects over the next 2-4 years with the Federal funds. Mr. Altimus motioned to amend the Transpiration Improvement Program and the Long Range Transportation Plan to forego Federal funding participation of the Hamilton Road Extension Project (H.007087) for the purpose of reallocating funding towards more cost effective improvement projects and the current cost estimate shortfall regarding the Shed Rd Improvements project (State PN: H:007086) subject to 30 day public comment period; seconded by Dr. Wilson. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Dinero Washington – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

Dr. Wilson asked Mayor Walker when the projects would start. Mayor Walker replied very soon; we need to come up with another $9 million. Mayor Walker asks for the members to review the minutes. Dr. Wilson motioned to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2015 as presented; seconded by Mayor Tyler. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Dinero Washington – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

VIII. Public Comments (Non-agenda Items)

Mayor Walker asked the public if anyone would like to make a comment. There were no public comments.

IX. Adjourn

With no further discussions, Dr. Wilson motioned to adjourn with Mr. Altimus seconding. The members adjourned.

 J. Kent Rogers, Secretary
Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee

Minutes

Friday, May 8, 2015 (9:00 a.m.)
First Floor Seminar Room
NLCOG Office, Shreveport Bar Association
625 Texas Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, LA 71101

Members Present
Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury
Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission
Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City
Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport
Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC
Mr. Dinero Washington – SporTran
Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04
Mr. Brandon Buckner – FHWA (non-voting)

Others Present
Ms. Anna O’Neal – Legal Counsel for NLCOG
Mr. Kent Rogers – Executive Director, NLCOG
Mr. Chris Petro – NLCOG
Mr. Stephen Jackson – City of Shreveport

With due notice, Mayor Walker called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Walker called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Dinero Washington – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

III. Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Walker welcomed the public and the committee members to the meeting.

IV. Public Comments (Agenda Items)

There were no public comments.
V. Unfinished Business

Mayor Walker moved the committee into the unfinished business. Mayor Tyler motioned to amend, as appropriate, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to forego federal funding for H.007087 and to reallocate those funds to other projects; Mayor Walker seconded. Mr. Rogers discussed Bossier City’s request to forego federal funding participation in the Hamilton Road Extension project (SPN H.007087) for the purpose of reallocating the funding. Mr. Mark Hudson, City Engineer for Bossier City, clarified that the city would like to use the funding currently allocated to the Hamilton Road Extension toward more cost effective improvement projects and to help with the current cost estimate shortfall regarding the Shed Road Improvements (SPN: H.007086). Mr. Rogers stated the amendments were subject to a 30-day public comment period and no comments were received. Mr. Petro stated the Technical Coordinating Committee reviewed the request from Bossier City and concurs with the recommended LRTP and TIP amendments. The motion passed.

* Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Dinero Washington – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

VI. New Business

Mayor Walker moved the committee into the first order of new business which was the Fiscal Year 2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Dr. Wilson motioned to introduce the FY 2016 UPWP; Mr. Washington seconded the motion. Mr. Rogers stated the UPWP is subject to a 30-day public comment period prior to its adoption by this committee. Mr. Rogers directed the members to the tasks as outlined for the upcoming year (page 7 of the draft UPWP). He briefly discussed each task. The motion passed unanimously.

* Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Dinero Washington – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

Mayor Walker asked the members to briefly review the minutes from the March 20, 2015 meeting. Dr. Wilson motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Mr. Washington seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

* Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Dinero Washington – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

VII. Presentations and Project Updates

1. Project Development Process and Preferred Alignments
Mr. Rogers discussed the draft project development process that was presented to the Technical Coordinating Committee. This process would help identify and rank appropriate regional projects. Dr. Wilson asked if the process was objective or subjective. Mr. Rogers stated it would show hard, defined numbers and measures for projects, but that it would also show situations where mitigating impacts occurs. Mr. Rogers also discussed the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process through which preferred alignments and alternatives for roadways are decided. He directed the members to the LaDOTD project development process and stated the federal NEPA process does not begin until LaDOTD’s “Stage 1” planning and environmental process. Mr. Rogers stated potential preferred alternatives are vetted through the project advisory committee who then recommends a preferred alternative to this committee, who will then recommend a preferred alternative to LaDOTD. LaDOTD then recommends a preferred alternative to FHWA. Dr. Wilson asked about the ultimate decision. Mr. Rogers stated that it is FHWA’s responsibility for the final preferred alternative.

Mayor Walker asked if the project has no federal money, which agency would have the ultimate decision on the preferred alignment. Mr. Rogers stated that if there is no federal money involved, no federal permit or approval required, then the full NEPA process is not required but there may still be state or local regulations. Mr. Jackson questioned if there is no federal money, but the project touches federal land; Mr. Rogers stated the NEPA process would be triggered due to the need to federal approval for any impacts to adjacent federal land. Mr. Jackson also asked who the final approval would come from if there is no concurrence on the preferred alignment from the project advisory committee, to the MPO Transportation Policy Committee and then to LaDOTD. Mr. Rogers stated the ultimate decision is with FHWA as they may not agree with the aforementioned. Mr. Buckner stated FHWA is involved in the NEPA process from the beginning so they have an understanding of the project and the preferred alternative development. He further stated when FHWA is not in concurrence, it is usually due to engineering and design issues whereas the typical preferred alignment has the least environmental impacts and has not undergone detailed engineering or design at that point. Mayor Walker asked for anymore questions or comments; hearing none he moved the committee to the next presentation.

2. TIGER Grant Program

Mr. Rogers briefly updated the committee on the outcomes of the recent TIGER workshop held in Washington, DC. He stated the projects recently submitted by the area were not exactly what the reviewing teams looked to fund. He stated the rail project was ultimately the best project in the area right now to submit to the next round of grants. Mayor Walker asked if that would include the multi-modal station. Mr. Rogers stated yes as most approved projects were inter- and multi-modal projects. Mr. Hudson asked how the cost/benefit analysis weighed into the scoring. Mr. Rogers stated the analysis weights heavily in the evaluation. He also discussed a Texas Street corridor from the Fairgrounds area in Shreveport to Bossier Parish Community College in Bossier City with improvements along the entire corridor and Complete Streets focus. Mayor Walker asked for any further questions or comments. There were none.
3. **I-49 Inner City Connector (ICC)**

Mr. Rogers gave a brief update regarding the I-49 Inner City Connector. He stated there was a meeting the previous week with FHWA, the consultant, and NLCOG to discuss planning the upcoming public meetings and the timeframe for holding those. He stated there would be 4-5 meetings held in the study area. Mayor Tyler asked if the fifth alternative was the "loop it" alternative; Mr. Rogers stated that the fifth alternative was the "loop it" idea: to use I-220 and LA 3132 along with local streets by making improvements. He stated this does not meet the purpose and need. Mr. Rogers stated the next round of public meetings would be in summer 2015, most likely in July. Mayor Walker asked what the construction around the landfill on I-220 was. Mr. Rogers stated that it is part of I-49 North. Mr. North stated it is sections J, K1 and K2 that is currently under construction with about six months left.

4. **LA 3132 Inner Loop Extension Stage 1**

Mr. Rogers stated the public meetings held the previous day had good turnout. He stated they were a hybrid public meeting/open house format. The consultant opened with a brief formal presentation then the public could move into the display room where comment cards and cards for specific questions were available. He further stated the last 30 minutes of the meetings were for a question-and-answer session in which the questions were taken from the cards submitted by the public. Mayor Tyler asked if the Stage 1 was complete. Mr. Rogers stated this was the first public outreach event within the Stage 1 and that May 18 was the last day to submit comments from this public meetings. There will be at least two more meetings later in this study. Mayor Tyler asked how the lawsuit related to the Stage 1. Mr. Rogers stated the lawsuit stems from the Stage 0 process.

5. **Transit Development Plan**

Mr. Rogers stated there is a survey available on [www.nlcogtestens.com](http://www.nlcogtestens.com) for the public to give their thoughts about public transportation. Mr. Washington asked how the public will know about the survey. Mr. Rogers stated NLCOG will post on Facebook, our website and will create flyers to send out to the public transportation providers in order to alert the public.

VIII. **Public Comments (Non-agenda Items)**

There were no public comments.

IX. **Adjourn**

With no further discussions, Dr. Wilson motioned to adjourn with Mr. Washington seconding.

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J. Kent Rogers, Secretary
Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee

Minutes

Friday, June 19, 2015 (9:00 a.m.)
First Floor Seminar Room
NLCOG Office, Shreveport Bar Association
625 Texas Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, LA 71101

Members Present
Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury
Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission
Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City
Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport
Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier City MPC
Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC
Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

Others Present
Ms. Anna O’Neal – Legal Counsel for NLCOG
Mr. Chris Petro – NLCOG
Mr. JD Allen – Alliance Transportation Group, Inc.

With due notice, Mayor Walker called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Walker called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier City MPC; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

III. Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Walker welcomed the public and the committee members to the meeting.

IV. Public Comments (Agenda Items)

Mr. Scott Sinclair asked about the committee’s process to prioritize major projects as listed in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Mr. Petro and Mr. Allen stated Mr. Sinclair’s question would be answered in the agenda item Long Range Transportation Plan Update under Presentations and Project Updates.
V. Unfinished Business

Mayor Walker moved the committee into the unfinished business. Mr. Petro gave a brief summary of the purpose of a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and its introduction at the last committee meeting on May 8, 2015. Mr. Petro directed the members’ attention to the updates as noted in yellow within the meeting packet. He stated Task A was modified, as well as B1 with the addition of I-49 North to the Traffic Incident Management System (TIMS). Mayor Walker asked if this would also include the new interchange under construction now. Mr. Petro stated that it would. Mayor Walker asked if there would be closer scrutiny since the flooding recently and would there be additional changes to the TIMS plan. Mr. Petro deferred to Mr. North. Mayor Walker stated he felt that there is a need to take a look in the future. Mr. Petro stated Caddo E-911, along with FEMA, took GPS coordinates of the highest spots of flooding and how they impacted the various facilities.

Mr. Petro highlighted the change to Task D with the addition of some work with Brownfields coalition locally through a revolving loan fund application. He stated these are the primary modifications to the UPWP. The budget did not change. Dr. Wilson motioned to approve the Fiscal Year 2016 UPWP with Mr. Altimus seconding. The motion passed.

Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier City MPC; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

VI. New Business

Mayor Walker moved the committee into the first order of new business which was a Resolution in Support of Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety. Mr. Petro briefly summarized the recently passed resolutions by the City of Shreveport and the Caddo Parish Commission and stated NLCOG drafted a similar resolution with a regional focus and encompassing NLCOG’s current efforts pertaining to bicycle and pedestrian programs. It was discovered that the resolution had been inadvertently left out of the meeting packet. Per Dr. Wilson, the committee deferred the business for the next meeting.

Mayor Walker moved the committee into the next order of business which was the introduction of the Bossier Parish Police Jury’s (BPPJ) request for Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment for the North – South Corridor. Mr. Petro reviewed the updated cost estimates with the committee and discussed the impacts that contributed to the cost overruns. Mr. Petro stated the amendment was introduced to the Technical Coordinating Committee on June 17 and approved. Mr. Altimus gave a summary of the earmarks Bossier Parish received for the project. He stated the costs escalator over the 10-year period and that the gas line came as a surprise as it was installed 50 years ago and not in the timeframe on a 30-year title search. He stated the line must be moved and the parish must pay for the 20% match. Mayor Walker asked if a public hearing was required for this amendment. Mr. Petro stated a hearing was not required, but a public comment period of 30 days is required. He stated a block ad was published in The Times to give notice to the public of the availability for comments. Mayor Walker asked if the amendment would be approved at the next meeting, after public comments were received. Mr. Petro stated that it would be an agenda item at the next meeting and the committee would be able to review any public comments received.
Mayor Walker moved the committee into the election of officers for FY 2016. Mr. Petro stated the proposed officers were noted in the meeting packet. Mayor Tyler motioned to elect the officers as presented; Dr. Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier City MPC; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

Mayor Walker moved the committee into the proposed meeting calendar for FY 2016. Mr. Sweeney asked for clarification that there are no scheduled meetings for July and December. Mr. Petro stated that was correct. Dr. Wilson motioned to adopt the calendar as presented; Mr. Altimus seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier City MPC; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

Mayor Walker asked the members to briefly review the minutes from the May 8, 2015 meeting. Mayor Walker volunteered that he seconded the motion as noted in the minutes needing clarification. Mr. Altimus motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Dr. Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Dinero Washington – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

VII. Presentations and Project Updates

1. Long Range Transportation Plan Update (LRTP)

Mr. Allen discussed the current status of the Long Range Transportation Plan Update. He briefly discussed the boards presented at the recent public meetings and the Delphi process with local business and civic leaders. He stated they looked at the public transportation system and how it serves the captured public that depends on the service. Mr. Allen further discussed the upcoming analyses needed to complete the update. He stated they will do some growth scenarios and see how each will affect the transportation network. Mr. Allen discussed the public involvement results and how the public ranked the planning criteria. He stated increasing multi-modal options, quality of life and safety were at the top of the public opinion.

Mr. Allen discussed the best-practice Project Selection Process that was introduced to the TCC a few months back and how it will help answer Mr. Sinclair’s previous question.
He stated the TCC made some changes to tailor the process to Northwest Louisiana. He stated the process creates scoring criteria from the 14 planning criteria and then allows the TCC to evaluate projects by a fairly objective manner. He stated the projects are divided into three categories so that similar projects will be evaluated against other similar projects. Mr. Allen stated this process will be an open, easily-understandable, quantitative and qualitative process for evaluating proposed projects. He stated this process will allow the TCC to score projects and recommend them to this committee for approval or disapproval.

Mayor Walker asked if this process was up for approval at this time. Mr. Petro stated that it is not, and that the process would be up for approval at the end of the LRTP Update process. Mr. Allen stated that it may be on the next committee agenda for introduction. Mayor Walker asked Mr. Sinclair if the presentation answered his question. Mr. Sinclair asked how large projects fit in with the financial constraints. Mr. Allen stated an analysis of all funds for the area in the next 25 years is done, not just the STP>200K planning funds. They also take into account the funds that Congress and the state can give for the big projects. Mr. Allen clarified that he recommends the MPO spend all of their STP>200K money every year and look to other funding sources to fund those large projects. Mr. Petro stated the first step for a project to received federal funding is to be included in the LRTP. Mr. Sinclair further clarified that he was not able to see how projects were prioritized in the current plan and wanted to know if the update would show how they are prioritized. Mr. Allen stated that this plan would show the process for how each project is prioritized; that it is new.

VIII. Public Comments (Non-agenda Items)

Mr. John Price with the Loop It group thanked NLCOG, LaDOTD and FHWA for taking the time to sit down with the group and talk about their concerns with the I-49 Inner City Connector.

IX. Adjourn

With no further discussions, Mr. Altimus motioned to adjourn with Mayor Tyler seconding.

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J. Kent Rogers, Secretary