MINUTES

Friday, April 15, 2016 (9:00 a.m.)
First Floor Seminar Room
NLCOG Office, Shreveport Bar Association
625 Texas Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, LA 71101

Members Present
Mr. William Altimus – Bossier Parish
Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish
Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City
Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport
Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC
Mr. Eric England – Caddo – Bossier Port
Mr. Dinero Washington – SporTran
Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

Others Present
Ms. Anna O’Neal – Legal Counsel for NLCOG
Mr. Kent Rogers – NLCOG

With due notice, Dr. Wilson called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

I. Call to Order

Dr. Wilson called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

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

III. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Wilson welcomed the public and the committee members to the meeting.

IV. Public Comments (Agenda Items)

Dr. Wilson called for public comments. There were none.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Public Transportation Study Adoption

Dr. Wilson moved the committee into unfinished business. Mayor Walker motioned to approve the resolution adopting the Public Transportation Study for the Shreveport – Bossier Urban Area; Mr. North seconded the motion. Mr. Rogers noted that they had asked for a postponement at the last
meeting pending the addressing of some comments on the final plan. Mr. Rogers stated the consultant still has a few minor updates to the graphics and maps, but that he and Mr. Washington are satisfied with the content. Mr. Washington stated that he was dissatisfied with the unprofessional presentation that occurred by the consultant; he stated that they have asked the consultant to revise that and present it again. He stated the information within the plan, the data, is in the plan and good. Mr. Rogers stated the consultant will redo those and resend the plan as appropriate. Dr. Wilson asked about using this consultant in the future. Mr. Washington stated he believed the issue stemmed from the three different project managers that worked on this project. He stated that at the end of the project, the last project manager did not know what the other two project managers did. Mayor Tyler asked if we paid for this. Mr. Rogers stated yes, that there are still outstanding invoices, but until the work is completed satisfactorily they will not be paid. Mr. Washington stated he did not think the entire contract should be paid in full as not all of the outlined work was completed as requested. Dr. Wilson asked Mr. Washington if the plan is sufficient. Mr. Washington stated he felt the data within the plan is good, but that it is a rough draft and more planning would be done with the SporTran staff. He emphasized that though the process was not good, the data obtained was good that will allow his staff to proceed with planning new routes with the new terminal. Mr. Washington stated they are bringing a planner on staff that will do transit planning. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

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

B. Long Range Transportation Plan Update (LRTP) Adoption

Dr. Wilson moved the committee into the next order of unfinished business. Mr. Rogers briefly reviewed the previous activities regarding the plan and the increased public comments period due to the recent flooding. Mr. JD Allen with Alliance Transportation spoke briefly about a couple of comments that were received. Mr. Allen spoke about a couple of comments received by Mr. England. He also spoke about some comments from the general public regarding the SporTran routes and the I-49 inner city routes. He stated the MPO staff responded to those comments. Mr. Allen stated there were a lot of pings on the www.nl coglistens.com website, but no comments were submitted. Mr. Allen stated the public, and the technical committee, were both given ample opportunity to review and comment on the plan. Mr. Allen stated they would begin work on the brochure with all of the major planning efforts that have recently occurred. Mr. Rogers stated there may be an open house once that brochure is created for the public to see what all has occurred as far as planning. Mayor Tyler clarified that the plan in their packet is a draft. Mr. Allen stated that was correct. Mr. Washington stated there would need to be more discussion with the mayors in Bossier Parish cities and towns, as well as the parish administration, for proposed routes into Bossier City and some outlying areas with smaller vehicles. Mr. Allen referred the committee to the Technical Memo as part of the LRTP Update for more information. Mayor Walker motioned to approve the adoption of the Long Range Transportation Plan Update. Mr. Altimus seconded the motion. Mayor Tyler clarified that the plan in their packet is a draft. Mr. Allen stated that was correct. Mr. Washington stated there would need to be more discussion with the mayors in Bossier Parish cities and towns, as well as the parish administration, for proposed routes into Bossier City and some outlying areas with smaller vehicles. Mr. Allen referred the committee to the Technical Memo as part of the LRTP Update for more information. Mayor Walker motioned to approve the adoption of the Long Range Transportation Plan Update. Mr. Altimus seconded the motion. Mayor Tyler stated she sent letters to the delegation about our Amtrak situation the previous day and wanted to know if it was referenced in the document. Mr. Rogers stated the brochure would address the outcome of the rail plan and there were some minor references in the LRTP document. Mayor Tyler spoke about House Bill 357. Mr. Allen stated the brochure would be a great quick and easy information source to send out to the delegation regarding all of the plans that the area has completed. With no further discussion, Dr. Wilson called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Mr. William Altimus – Bossier Parish; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Shreveport MPC; Mr. Eric England – Caddo Bossier Port; Mr. Dinero Washington – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04
VI. New Business

A. Fiscal Year 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Dr. Wilson moved the committee into the first order of new business which was the discussion of the Fiscal Year 2017 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Rogers clarified this is the introduction of the document for public comment. Mr. England motioned to introduce the UPWP for public comment; Mayor Tyler seconded the motion. Mr. Rogers stated there is a 30-day public comment period required. He stated the work program outlines the work that staff will complete for the next fiscal year which begins July 1, 2016. Mr. Rogers directed the members to the Planning Prospectus on page 11 which gives a brief summary of the elements within the UPWP. Mr. Rogers stated there have been a few shifts within the tasks to put each MPO around the state on the same page. Mr. Rogers briefly reviewed each task and the products associated with those tasks. Mr. Washington asked if there was funding to move forward over the next year with some of the bicycle and pedestrian projects. Mr. Rogers stated there was and that with the FAST Act, it released money that was previous held back particularly in the Transportation Alternatives program. He stated initially they were looking at the Shreveport Common area into the Intermodal Facility. Mr. Rogers stated the bike plan that was conducted with the parish could feed projects into this program. Mayor Tyler asked about the four Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) grants. Mr. Rogers stated MAP-21 allowed for sidewalk and crosswalk improvements in and around the schools. Mr. Rogers stated Cherokee Park, Arthur Circle, Meadowview, Bossier and some other elementary schools participated. He stated it was a two-step program with education coming first and then identifying areas for improvements based on parent, teacher and community surveys. Mayor Tyler stated she wanted to make sure we were leveraging our resources as they are trying to find funding to make some of the same types of improvements. Mayor Tyler asked for further information regarding the Safe Routes program. Mr. Rogers stated he would get the list of schools and other information to Mayor Tyler. Mr. Rogers continued discussing the various tasks and products. Mr. Rogers directed the members to the more detailed descriptions of each task beginning on page 17. Mr. Petro stated this morning a project number was assigned to the Regional Thoroughfare Plan. He stated the next step is for the Technical Coordinating Committee to tighten up the scope so that LaDOTD can create the city-state agreements. He further stated beginning next week, he and Mr. Rogers would be addressing the local officials regarding the Regional Thoroughfare Plan. Mr. Sweeney clarified that it includes both city councils and parish administrations. Mr. Rogers stated yes. Mr. Sweeney stated it is very important for all bodies requested to approve this plan be educated about what the plan is and what it means for the area and for the future. Mr. Sweeney updated the committee on the local funding and stated he has commitments for all of the local funding for the Shreveport area and he believes Mr. Marsiglia has the funding secured for the Bossier area. He stated the funding will go straight to NLCOG. Mr. Sweeney stated the Port of Caddo – Bossier was one of the contributors; he thanked Mr. England for his assistance in discussing this project with the Port’s board. Mr. Rogers stated this plan will not remove the NEPA and environmental processes, but it will give some legal backing for some issues that can arise. Mr. Sweeney asked when the selection process would occur. Mr. Rogers stated the city-state agreement would need to be in place prior to a consultant receiving a notice-to-proceed. Mr. Sweeney asked who would be part of the selection process. Mr. Rogers stated the TCC would review proposals and make recommendations to the board; he stated final selection would be this board with contract approval through the Board of Directors. Dr. Wilson asked if the local bodies would have to adopt the plan. Mr. Rogers stated yes, that it would be adopted first by this body, then the MPCs, then the city councils and parish commission/police jury. Dr. Wilson asked for further questions. There were none.

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

B. Approval of Minutes –February 26, 2016
Dr. Wilson moved the committee to the approval of the minutes from the February 26, 2016 meeting. Mr. Washington motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Mayor Tyler seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

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

VII. Presentations and Project Updates

A. I-49 Inner City Connector

Mr. Rogers directed the members to the short update provided for the I-49 Inner City Connector Study. He stated the project team, including federal and state agencies, reviewed the comments and the matrix of data collected, and which corridors to move forward with. He stated part of that discussion centered on areas that were removed from the official wetlands designation. He stated there would an initial look at those areas prior to moving forward with the corridor decisions. Mr. Rogers stated the FHWA representative stated he expects the draft EIS will not identify one preferred alternative, rather it would have two or more build alternatives to be considered. Mr. Washington asked for an update on I-49 North at the next meeting regarding the new schedule. There was no further discussion.

B. LA 3132 Inner Loop Extension

Mr. Rogers stated the consultant for the LA 3132 Inner Loop Extension has requested a supplemental scope of services as the further analysis requested on the two corridors showed a few things on both corridors. Mr. Rogers stated the hope was that there would be an outstanding issue with one of the corridors that would help narrow it down, but there are issues with both corridors that will need to be further investigated prior to moving forward. Mr. Rogers stated there are bald eagles within the area as well as Indian mounds and artifacts. He stated the project is still moving forward.

Mr. Washington stated that with the adoption of the Public Transportation Study there needs to be presentations for both city councils and parish bodies. Mr. Rogers stated he would set up the presentations. Mr. Rogers stated with the brochure being developed for all of the plans, does this committee want the combined brochure taken to the bodies or each individual plan. Mr. Washington stated with the intermodal facility back on schedule, he feels this needs to be addressed now and not wait for the brochure.

Mr. England asked about the new completion date for LA 3132 Stage 1 study given the developments. Mr. Rogers stated it has changed in regards to the original by about six months. He stated he did not remember the original completion date from the original notice-to-proceed. Mr. Rogers stated there would still be a public hearing prior to the study going to LaDOTD and FHWA for a 45-day review period. He stated that could add a delay while those entities review the study. Mr. England asked Mr. Rogers to send him a timeline.

VIII. Adjourn

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

J. Kent Rogers, Secretary