Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee

MINUTES

Friday April 27, 2018 (9:00 AM)
NLCOG, 1st Floor Seminar Room
625 Texas Street
Shreveport, LA 71101

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

Members Absent
Ms. Ronisha Hodge – FTA

Others Present
Joshua S. Chevallier - Bradley Murchison Kelly & Shea
Mr. Chris Petro – NLCOG
Dr. Shelly Barrett – NLCOG
Mr. Dan Broussard - LaDOTD

Call to Order

Mr. Altimus called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Rogers to call the roll. A quorum was present.

Public Comments

Mr. Altimus called for public comments and reminded those in attendance to limit their comments to three (3) minutes. He asked Mr. Feico Kempff if he would like to speak.
Mr. Kempff stated he had some concerns with traffic flow and how it would be handled once the I-49 @ I-220 interchange is open for operations. He stated that his concerns are three part. The first is that of signage and the need for way signage into Shreveport and Downtown along I-49 and then once you get off I-49 and make your way into downtown. His second concern was with actual traffic on the streets into downtown once the roadway is open. He stated the need to do traffic studies along Caddo/Ford, North Market, and North Hearn. We should start doing traffic counts now and then periodically over the next few years to see what the true impact is on those facilities due to I-49 North opening. Mr. Kempff’s third concern was the need to dress up the Allendale/Ledbetter area as you come into town Caddo/Ford. We should do some enhancements and beautifications along that corridor as it will become one of the defacto entrances into downtown once I-49 interchange is open. Mayor Tyler asked if he could provide her with his contact information that she would like to speak with him more. Mr. Kempff agreed. With no other comments Mr. Altimus proceeded with the agenda.

Business

1. Approval of Minutes
The next item on the agenda was for approval of the minutes of the February 16, 2018 meeting. Mr. Rogers stated we would need to postpone this till next meeting staff had not completed the minutes for the meeting. Mr. Altimus moved to the next item.

2. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendment

Mr. Altimus stated that the next item for discussion was the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendment for the I-220 Barksdale Gate Access Road. The chair entertained a motion to approve resolution for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendment with reference to the I-20 @ I-220 BAFB Gate Access Road. Dr. Wilson motioned with Mayor Walker seconding. The chair opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Rogers stated that the resolution was introduced at the previous meeting and that we had received no comments. Mr. Petro stated that this was a different type of amendment than the MPO normally saw in that it was an amendment to the Plan and not the TIP. The amendment is to move the project from the unfunded section of the plan to the current program within the plan.

Mr. Altimus noted that as was reported in the TIMES the Bond Commission met and ultimately approved the project after quite a bit of discussion on many different subjects. They will be looking at bond attorneys first. The commission approved the package and to move forward with the BAFB and NOLA projects. Mr. Rogers passed out a time line as provided through DOTD secretary. Mayor Tyler noted that it appears that the end of this year or early next would be when they actually go to the bond market. Mr. Altimus concurred and said it seems like a lengthy process but ultimately it is quicker than the normal process. He then asked if there was further discussion. With no further questions the chairman called for a vote. The motion passed.

3. FY 2018 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments
The next item on the agenda was a series of Transportation Improvement Program Amendments. Mr. Petro stated that the projects have been submitted for public comment and would be available for adoption at the May meeting. Mr. Rogers noted that the first project was for the initial engineering phase of the I-220 BABF Gate project. He stated that with the bond commission approval that DOTD would be soliciting proposals for the Design-Build project. Mayor Tyler asked if this included the local funds. Mr. Rogers stated that at this time these are state funds. Mr. Petro then went on to describe the other projects. Mr. Altimus asked if action was needed at this time. Mr. Petro stated that no action is needed that approval will be required at the May meeting following the public comment period. Having no further discussion Mr. Altimus called for the next agenda item.

4. Fiscal Year 2019 Unified Planning Work Program Task Summary

Mr. Altimus stated the next item for discussion is the Fiscal Year 2019 Unified Planning Work Program Task Summary. Mr. Altimus called for a motion. Dr. Wilson motioned and Mr. England seconded to approve the Proposed Fiscal Year 2019 UPWP Task. The chair opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Rogers described the work program task summary as an outline of the major task to be performed by the MPO in fiscal year 2019. He stated that many of the task or the ongoing operations and requirements of the MPO. Mr. Rogers described each Task that would be included. He noted that there are two new task. The first of these new task is for Freight and Intermodal Planning. Mr. Rogers stated that one of the performance measures coming down from the federal level deals with fright and freight movement. Mr. Rogers stated that the MPO would be working with the Port, the rail roads and some of the major distribution companies to identify a regional freight highway network and the development of performance measures for the network. Mr. Rogers then noted the second new task is for Local Road Safety Planning. This task is an outgrowth of the Regional Safety Coalitions and will entail the development of Local Road Safety Plans for the parishes and major municipalities. Mr. Altimus noted that under the Metropolitan Planning Task there is reference to a DeSoto Transportation Plan. Mr. Rogers stated that part of that task will be to bring the DeSoto roadway system into our Long Range Plan that currently covers Caddo and Bossier. Mr. Rogers stated that the transportation model already includes DeSoto due to modeling efforts for I-69 and other projects. Mr. Rogers stated that this effort along with the Local Road Safety Plan should bring DeSoto “up to speed” in terms of transportation planning efforts along with their participation in the safety coalition and the Human Services planning efforts. Mr. Altimus asked if there was any further discussion. Having none he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Walker asked if there were any further comments on this subject

5. MPO Certification Review FHWA Report and Staff Response

Mr. Altimus stated the next item for discussion is the MPO Certification Review Report and Staff Response. Mr. Altimus called for a motion to accept the report and response. Mr. Washington motioned and Mayor Tyler seconded. The chair opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Rogers Welcomed Ms. Laura Phillips form FHWA and Mr. Dan Broussard form DOTD. Ms. Phillips thanked the group and began by stated that FHWA in coordination with FTA does a review of the MPO Transportation Planning Process approximately ever
four years. She further stated that she was pleased to announce to the committee that they have found the process here to be in compliance and fully certified. Ms. Phillips noted that within the report you will note three types of comments those being R for Recommendation, C for Commendation, and CA for Corrective Action. She noted that there were two Corrective Actions both dealing with the Transportation Improvement Program and both which have already been addressed. The first of those was dealing with language for amendments. Previously the MPO had used the term Administrative Amendment to the TIP for minor modifications. In order to comply with current practices these minor modifications should be referenced as Administrative Modifications. She noted that staff had already complied with that action. The second corrective action deals with the web site and ease of access to the TIP and TIP Amendments on the site. Mr. Petro then walked the committee through the new TIP page on the NLCOG.ORG web site. He demonstrated how both amendments and modifications were reported and how project cost and overall tip funding was tracked. Ms. Phillips stated that if the new site was active then the action is corrected. Mr. Petro stated that it was and that we were seeing the site live now.

Ms. Phillips then stated that there were several commendations within the report. She noted that the Safety Coalition although being the last to get started was doing great work and well beyond expectations at this point. Mr. Altimus noted that the credit is due to Dr. Barrett and her hard work. Ms. Phillips also noted the review team also noted the strength of the financial staff and the excellent financial records. Mr. Rogers noted that as had been pointed out in the past the forms and methods that DOTD has incorporated into their system and requires all MPOs to follow was developed by Mrs. Barnett and she is to be commended.

Ms. Phillips then stated that there were several recommendations in the report with many of them dealing with the web site. Mr. Petro then walked the committee through the remainder revised web site and home page. He noted that several of the pages still liked to the old format but were slowly being moved over. Mr. Rogers stated that as had been previously discussed with the Board of Directors that NLCOG has reached out to CivicPlus to update the website and possibly provide additional components for public meeting packets. Ms. Phillips wanted to thank the group again and asked them to please feel free to contact her if you had any questions or comments. Mr. Rogers stated that the copies of the report included in your packet did not include all the appendices as those were copies of our by-laws and other documents already on hand. He noted however that there were a few copies on the table if anyone cared for one. Having no further discussion Mr. Altimus called for a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Presentations and Project Updates

6. Brief Updates

Mr. Rogers stated that he wanted to just give a quick update on a couple of the projects. He stated that the initial draft EA report for the Inner Loop project had been submitted to DOTD for comments. He noted that DOTD and FHWA have concurred with the MPO on the
identification of Alternative B2 as the locally preferred alternative. Dr. Wilson asked Mr. England if this was the alternative preferred by the port. Mr. England stated it was.

Mr. Rogers then noted that he has asked the three major consultant for the three main projects being I-49 Inner City, the Regional Thoroughfare Plan, and the 3132 project to be able to provide a very detailed update on the project between now and the June meeting. He stated he asked them for a listing of all the technical documents that had been submitted, when submitted if approved, where the documents stand at date and what it will take to get them completed. He also stated that he wants firm timelines from them for completion of the projects.

**Adjourn**

With no remaining agenda items, Mr. Altimus entertained a motion to adjourn, Mayor Tyler asked if the May meeting could begin an hour later in order for her and Mayor Walker to attend an earlier meeting. All agreed. Dr. Wilson moved to adjourn, Mayor Tyler seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

J. Kent Rogers, Secretary