Call to Order

Mayor Walker called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Petro to call the roll. A quorum was present.

Public Comments

Mayor Walker called for public comments and reminded those in attendance to limit their comments to three (3) minutes. One card was submitted from Mr. John Perkins.

“We downloaded 80 pages from you guys for public comment, public outreach and went through it and found it to be so obtuse and difficult to get through that we are going to rely on our already published comments to the Department of Transportation which basically covers that stuff. But we suggest to you, that in an environment where it seems hard for
you to understand why it is important to communicate to people like my friends who speak Spanish, one just moved to Spain, that it’s also important to create documents that people can actually read and understand in less than an hour or two. (inaudible) It’s a herculean task to go through eighty pages and try to get folks that don’t come to these meetings monthly up to speed on what their problems are, but their problems are many. For instance, I hear all the time, that the new bus routes just ain’t cutting it for people. They are actually very disappointed, everybody from every neighborhood. I go up and down Line Avenue, everyone says it’s just not working. So I’m not convinced you guys are hearing what the public are trying to communicate to you and I’m not convinced you really want to hear. So anyway, I’m just filing my complaint. I’m sure you guys are aware that we have more complaints than we have kudos but I do appreciate your patience. I couldn’t give it to you in writing because I went to college and eighty pages is an onerous task to take on in a couple of hours and try to put together something that makes sense. I understand it but trying to explain it to the rest of the folks it really is a herculean task. I think it was a waste of your time and money. I’m going to make a bet that you didn’t get many responses, if any, the public comment (inaudible).”

With no other comments Mayor Walker proceeded with the agenda.

Business

1. Approval of Minutes
The next item on the agenda was for approval of the minutes of the November 17, 2018 meeting. Mayor Walker asked the committee to look over the minutes as provided. Mr. England motioned to approve the minutes with Mr. North seconding, the motion was approved.

2. Regional Safety Performance Measures
Mayor Walker stated that the next item for discussion was the Regional Safety Performance Measures. Mr. Petro noted that Mr. Rogers was home with fever and that he would be pinch hitting for him today. Mr. Petro stated that as part of the overall Transportation Performance Management program that each state, region, and MPO are to develop a series of safety performance measures. He stated that these goals were based on data provided by the state and mirror the goals set by the state. Mr. Petro directed the committee’s attention to the document behind tab 2. He stated that the document describes the safety measures developed by the state, the requirements of the safety coalitions, and the data for the MPO area. Mr. Petro then directed the group to the final page in the document that describes the data and performance targets for the MPO area. Mr. Petro described the table and stated that the recommended targets area as follows:

- 1% reduction in fatalities from a 2016 baseline of 41.8 with a Target of 41.
- 1% reduction in serious injuries from a 2016 baseline of 158.4 with a Target of 157
- 1% reduction in fatality rate from a 2016 baseline of 1.055 with a Target of 1.045
- 1% reduction in serious injury rate from a 2016 baseline of 3.999 with a Target of 3.959
- 1% reduction in non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries from a 2016 baseline of 26.4. with a Target of 26

Mr. Petro noted that these rates are based on a five year average. The data under the non-motorized is that information that was requested of Mr. Magri at the previous meeting. Mr. Petro noted that the 1%
reduction is considered an obtainable goal especially considering some fatality rates are actually climbing over the last few years. Dr. Barrett commented that when we started our coalition and the work here one of our principle factors was dealing with distracted driving and that we were early leaders in this work. Because of this the state is now in the process of developing a State-wide Distracted Driver Strategic Plan. Once that is completed the regional coalitions will then follow suit with regional plans. Dr. Barratt stated that the State Police were now listing fatalities at the bottom of all their press releases to help call attention to the issues. Captain Robinson from Troup G noted that they have seen an increase in single care crashes especially in DeSoto Parish. Mayor Tyler asked if there was a specific age group that we needed to target more than others. Dr. Barrett state 18 – 24. Mr. Petro noted that there is an emphasis are specific to young drivers. Mayor Tyler asked if this will help. Dr. Barrett stated that is the intent and hope. She also noted that each are had the option of developing their own measures or following the states, we chose to follow the state. Mayor Tyler stated that answers her next question which is does the state approve of these measures. Mr. Washington asked if we are seeing trends in certain areas or certain ties or certain parts of the area. Dr. Barrett stated that the state had just received the data and information and it is still in draft form and not available to public at this time. She stated that as soon as she can she will share the data. Dr. Barret noted that he data if very extensive and that there was comparative research done across the country. You can filter down to things such as Saturday night left turns. In General, it is things we all figure, night time weekend young distracted drivers. Mr. Marsiglia asked if there was any data as to how we compare to other states and nationally. Dr. Barrett stated that most of the data needs to be looked at in terms of density rather than just state by state in order to compare apples to apples. You don’t want to compare us to Dallas but maybe to other areas our size. She stated that they are beginning to perform these types of studies. Mayor Walker stated that the Chair would entertain a motion to accept these measures Mayor Tyler moved with Dr. Wilson seconding. Mayor Walker asked if there was any further discussion on the issue, having none a vote was called with all in favor.

Presentations and Project Updates

3. I-20 @ I-220 BAFB Gate Access

Mr. Petro stated that he hoped all had heard the good news coming out of Baton Rouge and the Governor’s office, the state through DOTD is looking at 4 major projects to focus resources on with one of those being the I-20 @ I-220 BAFB Gate Access Road. The project selected due to local support not just monetarily but also legislatively. The other projects include the widening of I-10 in Baton Rouge, the Loyola interchange in New Orleans at the new airport and the Belle Chase tunnel toll project. Each of these projects have major statewide economic and or military impacts and therefore have major support. Mr. Petro noted that Just prior to the announcement the state came to the locals’ areas and asked if they were willing to help fund these projects. In our case this participation is with Bossier Parish and Bossier City putting up a combined total of $6 million and the MPO putting up $12 million. The MPO allocation would be $1 million a year over a 12-year time span. Mayor Walker stated that he and Mr. Altimus agreed to bring to their local bodies an even split between the two jurisdictions that being $3 million per entity. He continued to state that there are a lot of good projects throughout the state but when the secretary and the governor’s office visited with them they acknowledged all the efforts at Barksdale and the need to support them in any way. Mayor Tyler stated that Mr. North, Mr. Rogers, and Mr. Altimus had come to visit with her about the project. She stated that she fully supports the MPO funding and that we need to support this project at the $12 million amount over the 12 year period of time. Mr. Petro noted that we would need to partition these funds out from our roughly $7 million /
year allocation. We would allocate $1 million a year for 12 years. Mayor Tyler stated that she knew this would not impact any of our existing projects and therefore supports the effort. Mr. Petro stated that we had actually received a bump in attributable funding so that will cover the cost without impacts to existing projects. Mayor Tyler further stated she was originally very concerned over the $90 million cost because our old estimates where not that high. She stated that Mr. North explained the cost and the increase. Mayor Tyler continued by stating that the state and feds would be covering the majority of the project cost. Mr. Petro stated that the state is proposing the use of Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle, or GARVEE Bonds for completion of the project. These are bonds backed by future federal funds and do not count against the states bonding capacity. The state has assured us that if it goes over the $90 million tab that they will pick up the remainder and there will be no additional cost to the locals or MPO. Mayor Tyler agreed. She further stated that there were a number of project around the state that are needed and areas wanted done but we were willing to come to the table with funds. She stated there have been a number of questions asked off how did Northwest Louisiana get chosen but when you are willing to put up money it makes a difference. Mr. Washington asked if it was 12 years from now that we would start payments on the bond or did 12 years start now? What type of time line are we looking at. Mayor Walker stated it is 12 years starting as soon as the state makes its first draw on the bonds. Mr. Washington stated he just wants to be clear that we are not waiting 12 years to start that we will start right away. Mr. Petro stated they are finish the environmental now and Mayor Walker stated DOTD will utilize design build so that the project can begin within the year. Mr North stated that a better estimate will be developed with design build and that it may in fact come in under the 90 million. Dr. Wilson asked would it be a three or four year project total? Mr. North stated he thought that would be very close and that design build can help speed the process up. Mayor Tyler stated that as a former high school math teacher the $18 million from the MPO and locals is 20% of the $90 million. Dr. Wilson asked what the time frame was for the milcon weapons storage area. Mayor Walker stated it is his understanding this is all being done to coincide with each other. Mayor Tyler stated the last thing she wants to note is this helps solidify us in terms of Barksdale against any BRAC closures. Mayor Walker asked if there was any more discussion on this item. Mayor Tyler asked if we would be bringing back something to formalize our commitment to the project. Mr. Petro stated that we would begin with a Long Range Plan Amendment and then a Transportation Improvement Program Amendment for inclusion of the funds. Mr. England asked for clarification on what was meant in the project description of “arrival of Department of Energy Vehicles” what does that entail and what is the importance? Mr. Petro stated that could include nuclear type payloads. Mayor Walker stated this the Department of Energy is responsible for the handling an transport of nuclear payloads. Having no further discussion Mayor Walker called for the next agenda item.

4. LA-3132 Inner Loop Extension

Mr. Petro gave a brief update on the project timeline and where we are in the process. He stated that the line and grade has been submitted for review and comments had been received and are being addressed. Mr. Petro then noted that as you may recall they team had to do some additional Cultural Resource work in the area of the proposed La 3132 @ I-69 interchange. That work has been completed and a revised Draft Report was submitted to the department on January 3. Mr. Petro then stated that the Traffic and Noise Study comments have been received and that comments and results of that study are to be submitted on January 19th. BKI is finalizing the Draft Environmental Assessment but are waiting on the final acceptance/approval from the Cultural Resources and Traffic & Noise Study. Once
those are received they can then submit the draft for agency reviews. At this point there is a lot of internal housekeeping reviews once those are completed it can be advertised and submitted for public comment. Mayor Walker asked we already made a recommendation from this body on a preferred correct. Mr. Petro said that was correct. Mayor Walker asked if there were any further comments or questions on this topic. Having none he directed the committee to the next item on the agenda.

5. I-49 Inner City Connector

Mr. Petro stated that there was an updated slide presentation in the members packet from Providence. He stated that the team had received comments back from a workshop meeting held in mid-December to review the Ford Street Interchange and its potential configurations. Mr. Petro then called the committees attention to the final slide entitled next steps. He stated that Providence is in much of the same position as BKI in that they are developing the Draft EIS to be submitted to the resource agencies for comment. Once those comments are addressed then they will proceed with advertising and distribution of Draft Document for Public Comment. That should happen sometime in the 2nd Quarter of 2018 with the public hearing in the 3rd Quarter and Final document and ROD in the 4th Quarter. Mr. Petro stated that we have been very careful with both of these projects to make sure the federal process is followed to the t. Mayor Walker asked if we had done everything on our end that was required. Mr. Petro stated that is correct and now the feds and state are doing their reviews. Mayor Walker asked if there were still to options on the table but we as the MPO have stated our position as to a preferred. Mr. Petro stated that is correct and that FHWA will make that final decision. Mayor Walker asked if there was any further questions or comments. Having none he called for the next agenda item.

6. Regional Safety Coalition

Dr. Barrett called the members attention to the handouts in the packet which includes a calendar for the year. She asked the members to please share these with their PR person for distribution. She briefly walked through the calendar and described the various safety campaigns for the year. Dr. Barrett stated that in her house they have Store Bought and Home Made and that the national campaigns are the Store Bought and that the local/state campaigns are the Home Made. Dr. Barrett described the various campaigns and how they relate to our emphasis areas. She then described the next page included weekly message campaigns. She stated that these will be pushed through variable message boards and through social media. Mayor Walker thanked Dr. Barrett for her enthusiasm and all her work on these efforts. Mr. England asked if the port should develop their own message post or should they just share those that would be posted by the coalition. Dr. Barrett stated to just share them so that it is a consistent message. Dr. Barrett asked if Captain Robinson had anything he would like to add. Captain Robinson stated that he wanted to brag on Bill Altimus and Bossier Parish Ems. He stated that the state police had been investigating a very tragic accident in Bossier and that since that time Bossier Parish has really stepped up. He noted that in the entire Troup G are they have 38 child passenger seat safety inspectors and that Bossier Parish EMS now has 12. He noted that one of these inspectors is an instructor and that there are only 4 in all of Troup G. He stated that the coalition has made great relationships with all the police and fire in the area. However, he would like the mayors to reach out to their departments especially the EMS workers to get trained and certified in the Child Safety Seat Inspections. Mayor Tyler asked how she could help and what she needed to do. Capt. Robinson stated that possibly Dr. Barrett and the coalition could sponsor a local training session and to please have your personnel attend. Mayor Tyler asked if the need was for more certified inspectors. Capt. Robinson responded affirmatively. Dr. Barrett stated that they have held some wonderful events all across the area many at the local elementary schools and at places like ToysRUs. They just need additional help with inspections. Capt. Robinson stated if the mayor would like they could talk afterwards on what
could be done. Mayor Tyler stated that she would like that. She further stated that Shreveport Fire had been rated Number One and wanted to do whatever was needed to further that. Dr. Barrett then went back to the calendar of events and went through the remainder of the items. She then stated one last thing that there was a new Destination Zero Deaths website and would like everyone to visit and again link that site to your own. With no further discussion Mayor Walker asked for the next item.

7. **Northwest Louisiana Regional Thoroughfare Plan**

Mr. Petro stated that again he always hated following Dr. Barrett on the agenda, she is always exciting. He then noted that Mr. Derek Chisholm from AECOM was scheduled to be here but had to take some bereavement leave due to a death in the family. Mr. Petro then stated that one of our Technical members, Mr. Robert Westermann the City Engineer for Shreveport had recently passed. Mr. Petro stated he will be a great loss due to his depth of knowledge and history not just of Shreveport but the entire area. Mayor Tyler stated that Robert will be missed greatly in the city and asked who from the city should fill his spot on the technical group. Mr. Petro stated that Patrick Furlong as the interim City Engineer has stepped up and also that Andy Glasgow has also been involved. Mr. Petro then stated that one of the major components of the thoroughfare plan is an updated Functional Classification Plan for the region. He noted that the technical group had been doing some review of the current street network and the classification of those streets. He noted that NLCOG would be hosting a webinar sponsored by TRB on Functional Classification Systems. The technical members have been invited to sit in to review the webinar and to go over the local networks. Mayor Tyler asked who from the city needs to participate in the webinar and do we need to pay the fee per person? Chris noted that NLCOG had cover the cost for the webinar and that the technical members had all been invited. This would include Patrick and Andy and Steven Gene from MPC would also be present. Mr. Sweeney asked how we were for the overall timeline. Mr. Petro stated there may be a need to do a non-cost time extension to finalize the effort. Mr. Sweeney then asked about the additional work that may be required. Mr. Petro noted that Kent and Derek had been discussing those efforts and cost. Mr. Sweeney asked if the intent of the interviews was to speak to all council and commission members. Mr. Petro stated they would like to speak with all of them and that is the intent

Mayor Walker asked if there were any further comments on this subject. Having none he asked if there were any further business or comments for the group.

**Adjourn**

With no remaining agenda items, Mr. Altimus entertained a motion to adjourn, Dr. Willson moved and Mayor Tyler seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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J. Kent Rogers, Secretary