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. Mr. Rogers stated no cards had been received. With no 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 May 11, 2018 meeting. Mayor Walker motioned and Mr. Washington second to approve the minutes as provided. Mr. Altimus called for questions or comments having none asked for a vote the motion passed.

2. Fiscal Year 2019 Unified Planning Work Program
Mr. Altimus stated the next item for discussion is the Approval of the Fiscal Year 2019 Unified Planning Work Program for public comment. The Chair called for a motion. Dr. Wilson motioned and Mr. Marsiglia seconded the motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2019 Unified Planning Work Program. The chair opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Rogers stated that we received a few comments including those noted by Mayor Tyler at the previous meeting. Mayor Tyler asked if they had been addressed. Mr. Rogers replied yes and that included in the members packet is a page outlining all the comments and edits. He further stated that many of the edits were to provide additional detail on products and milestones. Mr. Altimus asked if Mr. Rogers could go over those. Mr. Rogers stated that the first series related to those questions asked by Mayor Tyler at the previous meeting with regards to the task matrix on page 16. Mr. Rogers noted that intermodal connections has been checked for the Stage 0 & Stage 1 project development and that safety has been checked for the I-49 ICC project. Mr. Rogers stated that in Task B-2 Project Development specific products were noted for the development of Stage 0 and Stage 1 documents for the next two phases of the Linwood Avenue rehabilitation project. Mr. Rogers stated that he had spoken to the city engineering office about these two projects and agreed with them to move forward. Mr. Petro stated that these projects will fall under the systems preservation category of funding. Mr. Rogers then stated that within Task E we would be doing an update to a Citizens Guide brochure that Mrs. Frazier had previously developed. This brochure would be brought up to date based on the latest state and federal legislation. For Task F Management and Administration Mr. Rogers noted the inclusion of the Fiscal Year 2018 Audit of Agreed upon Polices and Procedures. Mr. Rogers noted that this is the new portion of the audit work conducted each year. Mr. England asked if this had been budgeted for. Mr. Rogers stated yes that it was included under the other audit work but was being called out specifically since it is a separate report. Finally, Mr. Rogers noted that the milestones under Task I – LA 3132 Stage One and Task J – I49 ICC were updated to coincide with the timelines presented by the consultants for each project.

Mr. Altimus called for questions. Having none he stated there was a motion on the floor and called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2019
Mr. Altimus stated that the slate of offices presented for the MPO for fiscal year 2019 shows the rotation as Mayor Walker for Chair and Dr. Wilson as Vice Chair. Mr. Altimus asked if there were any questions. Mr. Altimus stated that he would be asking the board to look at having the rotation of the officers include other members of the committee not just the typical 4 that it has rotated around. He stated there was no magic to this rotation that it’s just how it has always been done. The other members agreed. Having no further questions, the Chair called for a motion on the slate of officers. Dr. Wilson motioned with Mr. Marsiglia seconding to approve the slate as presented. A vote was called the motion passed unanimously.

4. Calendar of Meeting Dates for Fiscal Year 2019
Mr. Altimus stated that the next item for discussion is the calendar of meeting dates for Fiscal Year 2019 beginning July 1, 2018. Mr. Altimus stated that Mr. Rogers has a change he would like to propose and
that he supports the proposal and thinks it a good idea. He then asked Mr. Rogers to describe the change. Mr. Rogers stated that the basis of the change is to go from a monthly meeting schedule to a 6-week schedule. Mr. Rogers further stated that the principle reason behind the change is to be able to speed up action on some items. He noted that many action items taken by the MPO and by the Board require a 30-day public comment period. On many occasions due to the way the current calendar is many of these items cannot be introduced at one meeting and then acted upon at the next. With a 6-weeks schedule this would allow for a full 30 days between each meeting and time frame to get items advertised and comments addressed prior to next meeting. Mr. Rogers stated that the 6-week schedule contains one fewer meetings each year but that going back over the last four years we have lost at least one meeting each year due to scheduling conflicts or other issues. Mayor Tyler motioned to approve to the 6-week schedule as presented with Mr. Brown seconding the motion. The chair called for questions having none he called for vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Presentations and Project Updates

5. Northwest Louisiana Regional Thoroughfare Plan

Mr. Altimus stated that the next item is the Northwest Louisiana Regional Thoroughfare Plan. He asked if this is for introduction. Mr. Rogers stated correct. The chair called for a motion. Mayor Tyler motioned to introduce the Northwest Louisiana Regional Thoroughfare Plan for public comment. Dr. Wilson seconded the motion. Mr. Petro stated that Mr. Derek Chisholm was with us today to give overview of the plan. He also stated that the plan had been presented to the technical members and a link to download the full plan and supporting documents had been included. Mr. Petro noted that there had been a great deal of input throughout the process from the technical members. Mr. Chisholm then gave a presentation on the plan and the process of developing the plan. He noted that the key components have been development of a Plan Map and Project Listing, ROW Preservation, Functional Classification Review and Recommendations, and an Online Concept tool. Mr. Chisholm gave a brief overview of each of these elements of the plan. He discussed the project listing and map and how each of these projects have been vetted through our Long Range Plan. He then reminded the group of the discussions held previously on Right of Way preservation. Mr. Chisholm then stated that a large portion of this effort has also been to review the functional classifications of the roadway networks in the area. He stated that there is a section on recommended changes that will need to be made both at the state/federal level and at the local level. Mr. Petro noted the example given on the screen is Gator Drive in Shreveport that is currently listed as a Minor Arterial but does not truly meet the criteria for a minor arterial and functions more as a collector street. Mr. Marsiglia noted that there are several of these in their area and that this is going to help them greatly with updates to their master plan. How streets are classified and operate is very important from the standpoint of funding eligibility. Mr. Petro noted that getting this right is also important for the design tool that Mr. Chisholm will be demonstrating. Mrs. Tramonte stated that these recommended changes would have to be submitted to both DOTD and FHWA for approval. She further stated she would provide staff with appropriate contacts to work with at the state level. Mr. Chisholm then gave a brief presentation of the design guidance tool that was developed. He pointed out that even though a roadway may be classified one way, the design considerations could be different depending upon the surrounding developments. An example could be that a collector in a more neighborhood area would be more pedestrian and non motorized friendly than in an industrial area. He then demonstrated how these surrounding land uses produced different design types. Mr. Rogers noted that COS Engineering has already used this tool when answering questions with regards to the bike lanes and signage projects that have recently been installed and underway. He further stated that COS Engineering staff had commented that they found the tool particularly useful when speaking with citizens and showing them that under given right of way
constraints the options were limited as to what could be implemented. Mr. Chisholm then gave a brief overview of the public engagement that took place during the plan development and the process for adoption. He noted that the first step would be for the MPO to adopt the plan and then bring it forward to the respective jurisdictions. Mr. Rogers commented that an implementation proposal would be presented to the board immediately following this meeting. Mr. Sweeney asked what that time line might look like. Mr. Rogers stated that following the MPO’s formal public comment period the plan could be adopted at our July meeting. It would then be brought to the respective MPC’s for adoption. Following those it would then be brought to the respective city and parish bodies for adoption. Mr. Rogers noted that the number of reads may very across these bodies but the earliest it could possibly be brought to the MPC’s would be for their August meetings. Mr. Altimus asked if there were any further comments or discussion. Having none the chair called for a vote on the motion to introduce the plan for public comment, the motion passed unanimously.

6. I-49 Inner City Connector

Mr. Altimus stated that the next item is the I-49 Inner City Connector project and schedule update. Information is behind Tab 6 in the booklet. Mr. Rogers introduced Mrs. Kerry Oriol from Providence and stated that much of this information the members saw this past week in small group meetings. Mrs. Oriol stated that the project team has been working to complete the project as was outlined in the schedule presented in August of last year. She stated that much of the work and many of the hurdles that they have had to overcome have been around the cultural resource study. She further stated that due to these setbacks the project is approximately 8 months behind schedule. The principle work needed to complete is the Traffic Study and finalizing the Cultural Resource Study. In terms of the Traffic work much of this work has been around the Ford Street interchange and the design of that interchange. There has been additional work around the Herne Interchange. The Herne interchange is limited due to gas and utility corridors. The principle work has been geared around the Cultural study with includes standing structures and cultural resources. Mrs. Oriol stated that the results of the cultural survey has shown that there are 14 archaeological loci documented and that none of these are recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register. There are currently no standing structures in the proposed ROW that are listed in the National Register. However, there are 16 standing structures in the proposed ROW and 28 standing structures in the viewshed recommended as eligible for listing in the register. Mrs. Oriol gave a brief description of the research work that had to be done on each of these structures. She further noted that during the time frame of the work several of the structures had burned down or have been demolished. Mrs. Oriol noted that some of the structures that SHPO had listed in the corridor where in fact not located in the corridor. The team had to provide evidence of this to the SHPO and work through many of those issues. She stated that they are required to use certain data bases provided by SHPO and that there are many conflicts within those data bases. The team also had to provide evidence of these issues to SHPO. Mr. Rogers noted to the committee that these are many of the same issues that BKI had presented to them with reference to the Inner Loop project. Mrs. Oriol stated that they received a draft of the study on Friday and will be have their review and comments to the consultants by Monday for edits and then will send to DOTD and FHWA for their review. Mrs. Oriol stated that based on this report Providence will finalize the Preferred Alternative Identification Analysis and submit that to DOTD and FHWA for comments. Based on all this the general schedule for completion is as follows:

- Second Quarter 2018 – Submit Draft Cultural Resource Survey to DOTD review and approval for submittal to SHPO.
- Third Quarter 2018 – finalize the technical studies
- Fourth Quarter 2018 – Submit Draft EIS for DOTD/FHWA review and begin stakeholder briefings.
- First Quarter 2019 – finalize stakeholder briefings and receive approval from DOTD/FHWA on Draft EIS
- Second Quarter 2019 – Release Draft EIS for public Review, Hold Public Hearing (no less than 30 days after issuance of Draft EIS for public review), submit Draft Final EIS for agency review
- Third Quarter 2019 – Approval of Final EIS and Issuance of a ROD (Record of Decision.)

Mr. Rogers asked for clarification that one of the recommendations from Earth Search was to relocate those 16 standing structures that are currently scattered throughout the corridor and moving them all together to an area within the Bottoms District so that you would actually have a meaningful district. Mrs. Oriol stated absolutely. She reiterated that the Cultural Studies are not released to the public as they are considered sensitive material. However, we have to note in the document the number of structures and a means of mitigating the impacts to the district. By consolidating the structures into a denser area the district is solidified. There are standards in terms of number and % of structures remaining in a district for it to be considered a viable district. Currently the district still maintains those standards but as more structures are demolished, collapse, burn down, etc. the viability of the district decreases. This would be a mitigation method that could be of benefit to both the highway project and the district remaining viable.

Mayor Tyler asked for clarification on how the 28 standing structures in the view shed area would be mitigated in this process. Mrs. Oriol stated that much of that would be handled in the design phase through use of longer spans or other methods. Some could be addressed through context sensitive design measures such as lighting, color, etc. Designing the roadway to fit in with the surroundings.

Mr. Altimus stated that he would like for Kent to get and update from Kerry on the process on a meeting by meeting basis. Sometimes we understand there could be some political issues that maybe we can help move along.

The Chair entertained a motion to accept the proposed schedule of completion for the I-49 ICC Environmental Study. Dr. Wilson motioned to accept with Mayor Walker seconding. The chair called for questions or comments, having none he called for vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The Chair then entertained a motion to request that FHWA Louisiana Division assign and maintain consistent staff personnel to this project for uniformity for the remainder of the project. Mayor Walker motioned with Dr. Wilson seconding. The chair called for questions, having none he called for a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The Chair asked if there was any other business to come before the committee. Mr. Washington noted that SporTran and the City of Shreveport would be hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new South Shreveport Transfer Center just off I-49 and 70th Street. Mr. Washington noted that this transfer center will act as a small terminal and will provide rest rooms and other amenities.
Adjourn

With no remaining agenda items, The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn, Dr. Wilson moved to adjourn, Mayor Walker seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

J. Kent Rogers, Secretary