Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee

MINUTES

Friday August 18, 2017 (9:00 AM)
Government Chambers
Government Plaza
505 Travis Street
Shreveport, LA 71101

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

Members Absent
Ms. Ronisha Hodge – FTA

Others Present
Mr. Kent Rogers – NLCOG
Mr. Chris Petro – NLCOG

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.

Bethany Sorhey spoke in opposition of Interstate 49 extension through Allendale. She stated it does not seem like a good idea and that current thinking is that it doesn’t benefit the community. Scott Martinez, President of the North Louisiana Economic Partnership spoke in support of the I-49 connector route one (1). He stated the partnership passed a resolution in support of the connector. Dr. Timothy Magner, president of the Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce spoke on the support of route one (1) of the I-49 connector. Jennifer Hill spoke against the I-49 inner city connector route recommendations stating
that it would decimate Allendale and make Shreveport less attractive to young people. Bruce Roberts, representing the North Shreveport Business Association, spoke in support of route one (1) of the I-49 connector stating it would help with traffic congestion. Vernon Chance, executive director of the Committee of 100, spoke in favor of alternative one (1). He stated the route will bring jobs to the cities, region and Allendale. Chip Layton, deputy chief of staff for Congressman Mike Johnson, spoke in support of the I-49 Inner City Connector route one (1). Sen. Barrow Peacock spoke in support of the I-49 connector using route one (1). James Thomas spoke against the I-49 connector through Allendale. Jim Shockley, president of the Northwest Louisiana Manufacturers’ Management Council, spoke in support of the I-49 connector. Robert Mills spoke in support of route one (1) of the I-49 connector. Willie Bradford, city councilman for the area, spoke in support of route one (1) of the connector. Roy Burrell spoke in support of the I-49 inner city connector. Middie Farrow spoke against the I-49 connector stating residents of the senior housing will be displaced and will have no place to go. Lisa Johnson with the Bossier Chamber of Commerce spoke in support of route one (1) of the I-49 connector. Flo Alexander spoke against the I-49 connector. She entered a mayoral options report into the record. Dorothy Wiley spoke against the I-49 connector through Allendale. She entered into the record expert analysis on the economic impact report. Rosie Chaffold spoke against the I-49 connector citing safety and health issues living near or under a freeway. John Perkins spoke against the I-49 connector. Patrick Harrison spoke in support for the I-49 Inner City Connector. He submitted to the record resolutions from several community organizations in support of the connector. Louis Brossett spoke against I-49 coming through Allendale or any neighborhood. He submitted into the record an Institute for Transportation and Public Policy report. Bill Wiener spoke against the I-49 route one (1). He spoke on the need to separate through traffic from local traffic and the environmental impacts on the water supply. Gard Wayt spoke in support of the Inner City Connector route one (1). Frances Kelley spoke against the connector through Allendale. Mr. Altimus thanked everyone for their time and comments.

Presentations

1. I-49 Inner City Connector
Ms. Kerry Oriol with Providence Engineering gave an update on the I-49 Inner City Connector Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Ms. Oriol stated three major milestones have been accomplished since the last project update in April. First, FHWA made Section 4(f) determinations on SWEPCO Park and Cross Lake. Ms. Oriol stated LaDOTD and FHWA provided concurrence on the Alternatives Decision Memorandum. She stated these three decision points allowed the project team to conduct detailed analysis of Build Alternatives One (1) and Five (5), as well as the No Build Alternative. This should put the EIS into draft phase this winter.

Ms. Oriol stated FHWA completed their review of the significance review request for SWEPCO Park under the Section 4(f) which provides protections for publicly owned park/recreation areas open to the general public. She stated FHWA determined that SWEPCO Park does not meet the significance requirement to qualify as a Section 4(f) property. Ms. Oriol spoke about the public request made to FHWA regarding the Cross Lake Section 4(f) determination. She stated FHWA completed their review of the request to make an official determination as to whether Cross Lake is a Section 4(f) property. FHWA determined that Cross Lake is a Section 4(f) property provided protections under Section 4(f).

Ms. Oriol spoke regarding the third project milestone which was the Alternatives Decision Memorandum. She stated FHWA and LaDOTD completed their review of the Alternatives Decision Memorandum supporting two distinct build alternatives: one through-route (Build Alternative 1) and one bypass-route (Build Alternative 5), as well as the No Build Alternative for further study. She stated
FHWA and LaDOTD concurred with the memorandum supporting the detailed study of the No Build Alternative and Build Alternatives 1 and 5 in order to identify a Preferred Alternative. The detailed analysis involves conducting a cultural resources survey, updating the items costs for the cost comparison, direct comparison of structure impacts, and direct comparison of other resource impacts. Ms. Oriol stated the cultural resources survey is required and is being initiated as part of the detailed analysis. She also stated certified letters have been sent to property owners in the Build Alternative 1 proposed right-of-way notifying them of the upcoming field survey. The field team is scheduled to be on site the week of August 21, weather depending, and it should last a couple of weeks.

Ms. Oriol spoke regarding the cost comparison detailed analysis. She stated costs are in the process of being updated with current item costs associated with I-49 Segment K and contingencies.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Build Alternative</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Build Alternative 1:</td>
<td>Fully elevated, 2 internal interchanges, 4 lanes</td>
<td>$547 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fully elevated, 2 internal interchanges, 6 lanes</td>
<td>$640 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build Alternative 5:</td>
<td>Resurfacing and widening existing LA 3132</td>
<td>$832 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reconstruction and widening existing LA 3132</td>
<td>$846 million</td>
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</tbody>
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She stated costs are not final and include salvaging part of the LA 3132 interchange for Build Alternative 5, but do not include traffic maintenance costs during construction. Ms. Oriol stated cost estimates for the No Build have not been developed until the detailed analysis. She stated the next steps include completion of the cultural resources survey, preparation of the preferred alternative identification analysis for FHWA and LaDOTD review, preparation of technical studies required to be conducted on the identified preferred alternative, and public outreach in the form of stakeholder briefings, reconvening of the citizen’s advisory committee, and a public hearing in conjunction with the release of the draft EIS. Ms. Oriol summarized the schedule for completion as: submission of the draft EIS for FHWA and LaDOTD review and approval in winter 2017; EIS approved for public distribution and stakeholder briefings in the late first quarter of 2018; public hearing in the second quarter of 2018; and a record of decision in the third quarter of 2018. Mr. Altimus asked for questions from the committee; there were none.

Old Business

1. **Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan**
   Mr. Rogers briefly reviewed the purpose of the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. He stated there were no substantive comments received. Motion to adopt by Dr. Wilson with a second by Mr. Washington. The motion passed with no objections.

New Business

2. **Approval of Minutes**
   The next item on the agenda was for approval of the minutes of the June 16, 2017 meeting. Mr. Altimus asked the committee to look over the minutes as provided. Mr. England motioned to approve the minutes with Mayor Tyler seconding, the motion was approved.

3. **I-49 ICC Resolution**
   Mr. Altimus stated that the next item for discussion was the I-49 Inner City Connector resolution to recommend an alternative as the locally preferred alternative for the I-49 ICC. Mayor Tyler motioned to
recommend Build Alternative One (1) as the locally preferred option. Mayor Walker seconded the motion, the motion was approved with no further discussion. The vote was unanimous.

4. MPO Certification Review
Mr. Rogers stated that the next item for discussion was the MPO Certification Review with FHWA and FTA. He stated it is a review of internal procedures and a public listening session will be held at the Bossier Parish Community College on Tuesday, August 29 at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Stringfellow stated FHWA reviews every MPO with a population over 200,000 every four years. She stated they are cyclical reviews that cover all of the planning products of the MPO.

Mr. Altimus noted the next regularly scheduled meeting is Friday, September 15, 2017 in the First Floor Seminar Room at NLCOG’s office, 625 Texas Street in Shreveport.

Adjourn

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

J. Kent Rogers, Secretary