Call to Order

Mr. Altimus called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Petro 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. No Cards Submitted
Business

1. Approval of Minutes
The next item on the agenda was for approval of the minutes of the October 20, 2017 meeting. Mr. Altimus asked the committee to look over the minutes as provided. Mayor Tyler asked if in the future could the minutes be provided a little earlier for review. Mr. Rogers stated yes. It is the intent of staff to have minutes and packets out a minimum of one week in advance. Walker. Mayor Tyler motioned to approve the minutes with Dr. Wilson seconding, the motion was approved.

2. Shreveport Regional ITS Architecture
Mr. Altimus stated that the next item for discussion was the Shreveport Regional ITS Architecture Plan. Mr. Petro stated that the Shreveport Regional ITS Architecture Plan had been advertised for public comment and NLCOG received no comments. Mr. Petro then described the process of the ITS Plan for the area noting that it included the inventory of current ITS projects and future projects for the area. These include the traffic signal systems, the dynamic message boards, and the traffic centers at the City of Shreveport and DOTD District 04 offices. Mr. Petro noted that federal regulations require an update of the regional plans in order to qualify for future funding. Mr. Petro stated that the Technical committee had been involved in the process of updating that plan and has recommended adoption. Mr. North stated that his staff had been involved in the process and refers to this plan when implementing ITS projects in the area. Mr. England motioned to approve the Shreveport Regional ITS Architecture Plan with Mayor Walker seconding, the motion was approved.

3. Regional Safety Performance Measures
Mr. Altimus stated that the next item for discussion was the Regional Safety Performance Measures. Mr. Rogers stated that we have a guest with us today, Mr. Dan Magri the Highway Safety Administrator for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. Mr. Rogers 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 were to flow down from the federal level in that FHWA had established national goals, and that the state has established state wide goals. Mr. Rogers stated that there is a recommendation that the regional coalitions and the MPO’s adopted similar performance goals as the state. Mr. Petro stated that he had reviewed the goals with the technical members and that they concurred with this recommendation. Mr. Magri stated that the overall goals for the state are a 1% reduction in fatalities and serious injuries, a 1% reduction in the rates for fatalities and serious injuries, and a 1% reduction in non-motorized fatalities. Mr. Magri further stated that these are based on 2016 base line with 5 year rolling averages. Mayor Tyler asked for clarification on what constitutes non-motorized. Mr. Magri stated that non-motorized includes bicycle and pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries as reported by first responders on accident reports. This would include not only when a cyclist or pedestrian is hit by a motor vehicle but also when they have and accident not involving a car or truck. Dr. Wilson asked if this included accidents not on the roadways. Mr. Magri stated that these are accidents as reported on public rights-of-way only. Mayor Tyler asked that these performance measures for our purposes would be only for those on public rights-of-way. Mr. Magri confirmed. Mr. Rogers stated that the MPO would need to adopt performance measures by February 27th of each year and since we are not meeting in December he would like to introduce the 1% target rates for public comment. Mr. Rogers stated that we are still waiting on the non-motorized number for the MPO area (Caddo and Bossier parishes) but that we had them for the safety coalition area. Mr. Magri stated that he will be sure to provide the staff with the needed information for the MPO area. Mr. Magri further stated that these numbers would be based on 2016 base year with 5 year rolling averages. He noted that current year data is actually showing an increase
in numbers. However, he felt comfortable that over the years we would begin to see a decrease and that no one wants to set safety measures that have an overall increase in fatalities and serious injuries. Mr. Magri did state that there are no penalties in the form of lost funds for not meeting your goals. The penalties outlined in federal statute regulate how safety funds are to be spent. Mr. Magri described that based on statute up to 50% of safety funds could be transferred to other programs. However, the state of Louisiana has for multiple reasons always spent 100% of the safety funds on safety projects and based on current budget partitions he does not see a change. Mr. Altimus stated the chair would entertain a motion on Regional Safety Performance Measures. Dr. Wilson motioned to introduce the Northwest Louisiana Regional Safety Performance Measures based on 1% reductions for public comment. Mayor Walker second the motion. Mayor Tyler stated again that these measures would be for incidents on public rights-of-way only. With no further discussion Mr. Altimus called for a vote, the motion was approved.

Presentations

4. Regional Safety Coalition

Mr. Altimus welcomed Dr. Barrett to the floor. Dr. Barrett stated that within your packets behind tab 4 is a copy of the Video Contest Guidelines that were sent to the local universities for the Safety Coalition PSA Video Contest. Dr. Barrett stated there were three basic categories for the videos, Distracted Driving, Binge Drinking, and Drinking & Driving. She further stated that we had received two videos during this round. However, she stated that there are plans to do another round next year. Several of the schools expressed interest and would be incorporating the contest into their curriculum for the upcoming spring and fall semesters. Dr. Barrett stated that since we received only two videos in different categories she would like to award them both a first place. Mr. Rogers directed the members attention to the screen for a viewing of the videos. Following the videos Mayor Tyler stated that they were both very powerful. Mr. Altimus asked where do we go from here. Dr. Wilson asked how would we get the videos out. Dr. Barrett stated that she was working with LSU to schedule a press conference for the awards. Dr. Wilson asked how would we get the videos out. Dr. Barrett stated that she was getting all the release forms in place and double checking on copyrights of anything in the videos. Mayor Tyler stated that she would like to help get them on the local tv stations and that Dr. Barrett could contact her office for assistance. Mr. North stated that he would offer up the assistance of his PIO officer to get word out. All members offered to post them on their web sites. Mayor Tyler reiterated that these videos presented a very powerful and timely message. She noted that her family had just suffered the loss of a loved one. Mr. Rogers stated that the videos were very powerful to him also especially the MADD video due to the mentioning of his daughter’s name. Dr. Barrett stated she would get word out to everyone once a date and time was set for the press conference at LSU. Mr. Magri asked if he could address the group. Mr. Altimus welcomed his comments. Mr. Magri stated that this area was the last area in the state to get moving with a safety coalition and that early on there were some reservations as to if one would actually be formed. He then stated that thanks to Kent and Dr. Barrett that the Northwest Louisiana coalition was likely one of the more advanced groups. He stated that he could tell that the group was well involved in the work that Dr. Barrett was doing. Mr. Magri complemented the work being done by NLCOG and its staff. Dr. Wilson motioned that we award both video teams a first-place award, Mayor Tyler second the motion. With no further discussion Mr. Altimus called for a vote, the motion was approved.
Northwest Louisiana Regional Thoroughfare Plan

Mr. Petro stated that he always hated following Dr. Barrett on the agenda, she always had something exciting for the group and his presentations were typically more technical in nature. Mr. Petro then called the groups attention to the boards along the wall and the slides within their packets. Mr. Petro noted that these were representative of the boards used at the recent public meeting on the Regional Thoroughfare plan. He stated that there were four meetings in total and that we had good input and participation from the meetings. Mr. Sweeney stated that this work is very much needed for the Master Street Plan for MPC. He stated that it had been some time since the last Master Street Plan for the city had been adopted. Mayor Walker asked about the status of Bossier Street plan. Mr. Petro stated that AECom had received copies of all the master plans and related transportation plans for the area. Mr. Rogers noted that the Bossier plans were more detailed with regards to streets and infrastructure than the Shreveport plan. Mr. Sweeney concurred with this assessment. Mr. Sweeney stated he would like to see a phased in approach to the plan maybe a 1 – 10 year phase, a 10 – 20 year phase and anything more than 20 or 30 years be referenced in a more broad senses. Mr. Sweeney stated that it was his understanding that the consultants are not tasked with staying on in an advisory role through the adoption process. He noted that having the consultants assist with the UDC adoption process was crucial and he believes it would be essential for them to be part of this process. Mr. Rogers noted that he has had some conversations on the adoption process with AECom and that he would ask for the to provide some guidance and an adoption flow chart to provide some over all guidance. Mr. Rogers stated that he understood that the process would be that NLCOG would adopt the plan with recommendations to the MPC’s and jurisdictions for adoption. The MPC’s would then adopt/concur and then it would go to the individual jurisdictions for adoption. If there were revisions made through that process it would then go back to the MPC’s and then NLCOG. Mayor Tyler stated that she thought it would be appropriate to begin talking to the public officials so that they will understand what the plan entails. Mr. Comeaux asked if he could interject. Mr. Rogers stated that BKI is a sub to AECom and has been very instrumental in this planning effort. Mr. Comeaux stated that the team was working on another round of interviews with stake holders much like those held previously with the group and other locals. Mr. Comeaux stated that it would be a good opportunity to use this round of interview to speak with the local officials. Mr. Rogers stated that maybe some small group conversations with multiples present rather than one on ones. Mayor Tyler concurred and asked that Mr. Comeaux provide a list of those they had interviewed in the past and those who they planned to interview in this round. Mr. Rogers then stated that Mr. England had asked if there was a way to do some initial valuations on needed rights-of-way for the planned improvements. He further stated that he had begun a conversation with AECom and BKI on the subject. AECom was reviewing the states right-of-way procurement process and how they determine an initial cost estimates. Mr. Rogers further stated that through use of gis data there may be a way to get a very rough estimate based on tax assessor data and amount of property needed for given corridors. Mr. England stated that he thinks it would be important for official to understand what the potential cost of corridor preservation could be. Mr. Rogers stated that there will likely need to be a couple of amendments to the contract to cover the adoption process and right-of-way valuations. Mr. Petro stated that the technical group would be meeting with the consultants prior to the next meeting to go over the results of the public meetings. Mr. Rogers stated we could discuss these items with the technical group then for their input.

Mr. Altimus asked if there was any further discussion on this topic. Having none he asked if there was any further business that needed to come before the group. Mr. Rogers stated that the feds had been in town for the certification review and he felt all in all it went well. Mr. Rogers noted that the representatives from FHWA stated they wanted us to update and revise our website and that they were going to put a time frame on it. Mr. Rogers stated that the group attended the press conference and
ribbon cutting at the Intermodal Terminal and were very impressed. Mayor Walker asked who all was in attendance. Mr. Rogers stated that there were about 6 individuals from the FHWA Louisiana division office and about 5 from DOTD Baton Rouge. Mr. North stated he had attended the Public Meeting and that he had staff member present for the other time. Mr. Altimus asked if they planned on any wrap up session. Mr. Rogers stated that Mrs. Stringfellow from FHWA was planning to have a conference call with the participants in a few weeks and that she had stated her goal was to have a draft of the report circulated prior to the end of the year. They would then be able to make a presentation to the MPO at a later date. Mr. Altimus asked Mr. Rogers to please keep everyone up to date.

Adjourn

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

J. Kent Rogers, Secretary