Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee

Minutes

Friday, January 16, 2015 (9:30 a.m.)
First Floor Seminar Room
NLCOG Office, Shreveport Bar Association
625 Texas Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, LA 71101

Members Present
Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury
Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission
Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City
Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport
Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC
Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC
Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran
Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

Others Present
Mr. Steven Jackson – Assistant for City of Shreveport Mayor
Ms. Lauren McKnight – Legal Counsel for NLCOG
Mr. Kent Rogers – Executive Director, NLCOG

With due notice, Mayor Walker called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Walker called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

III. Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Walker welcomed Mayor Tyler and the committee members to the meeting. The committee members introduced themselves to Mayor Tyler.

IV. Public Comments (Agenda Items)

There were no public comments.
V. Unfinished Business
Mayor Walker requested the committee to consider the approval of the Resolution of Adoption of the Northwest Louisiana Long-Range Transportation Plan 2035 Update before the Project Updates because Mayor Tyler had to leave early. Mr. Altimus made the motion; Dr. Wilson seconded. Mr. Rogers gave a brief update on the process. The adoption of the plan would bring everything up to date so we can continue working on projects. The only public comment we received was to change the meeting time to after work hours instead of during work hours. The projects in the Transportation Improvement Program will be authorized for this year and be able to move forward. There were no questions. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04

VI. Project Updates

1. I-49 Inner City Connector (ICC)

Mr. Rogers gave a brief update on the I-49 North at the 220 interchange. Mr. Rogers explained that Providence Engineering and the consulting team are doing a very detailed analysis of the design standards for the Loop-It alternative. They are planning a meeting with DOTD and Federal Highways to discuss the options. We will be working on scheduling the next round of five public meetings in March. After the public meetings are completed, we hope a preferred alternative will become apparent that DOTD can sign off on to move forward with environmental documents. That process should take about nine months to a year.

2. North Louisiana Passenger Rail

Skip James the Director of Transportation from Aillet, Fenner, Jolly & McClelland gave a brief update on the passenger rail feasibility study from Shreveport to Vicksburg. Mayor Walker informed Mayor Tyler the passenger rail with hopefully go from Meridian, MS to Marshal, TX, but it is still a concept at this point. Mayor Walker told Mayor Tyler the Representative Burrell has helped get the money from the State Legislature for the study from Texas to Mississippi. Part of the study is to determine if the passenger rail can be scheduled around the cargo train. Dr. Wilson asked if the intermodal site would be ruled out as a station. Mr. James stated that the intermodal site is not adjacent to the railroad. Mr. Sweeney asked if this site is the recommendation of the consultants and no decision has been made about the actual site. Mr. James answered yes. Mayor Tyler asked if the feasibility study has been completed and the recommendation was a result. Mr. James answered that the site recommendation will be in the feasibility report they produce for review. Mr. Sweeney asked if the other sites are included in the study. Mr. James responded that they will compare all the sites. Mayor Walker asked wherever the site is located, if the city or parish will have to build the terminal. Mr. James responded yes. Mr. Altimus asked if one day of collection data will be sufficient to know the train schedule. Mr. James replied that it should, but if it wasn’t then they would do another day of collection. Dr. Wilson asked...
if it was a win-win for the freight and passenger rail. Mr. James responded yes. Mayor Walker informed Mayor Tyler East Texas folks got us interested in a passenger rail. Texas DOTD estimate traffic on I-20 increase by 70% by 2021 so by then passenger rail would be more important. Dr. Wilson stated that the train would go to the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport at a nominal cost. Mr. Sweeney also stated that the train would connect to Union Station which connects with DART which will take you all the way to Terminal A at the airport so you wouldn’t need a car.

3. **LA 3132 Inner Loop Extension Stage 1**

Mr. Rogers stated the Solicitation of Views letter went out to different resource agencies and interested parties, about eighty people total. They have roughly a month to respond. Once completed, we’re looking at March or April for the first series of our public outreach on the project. The consultants will go through the alternatives, any additional information, and give a timeline for the project. The only outstanding legal issue is the ruling on transferring the case to the Baton Rouge courts.

4. **Long Range Transportation Plan Update**

Mayor Walker asked if we already completed this topic with the approval of the resolution earlier. Mr. Rogers stated yes, but would like to add that on February 5th the initial Delphi meeting will take place at the Bossier City Civic Center to look at and discuss growth patterns throughout the region.

5. **Transit Development Plan**

Mr. Rogers stated the entire study is about 30-45% complete. SporTran has recently installed passenger counters to track where passengers get on and off the buses which helps determine travel patterns. SporTran will use the information to better serve the population. The public meeting downtown had a large turnout. Mr. Eddy stated people were there before the doors were open. Mr. Eddy also stated that the passenger counters should be up and running by March and will be able to use them for years to come. Mayor Walker stated with how many people are riding you will know what size vehicle you need to service the area. Mr. Eddy responded yes, you can make a number of determinations. We will be acting as a medium to large transit system with these counters installed.

**VII. New Business**

Mayor Walker asks for the members to review the minutes of the November 21, 2014 and December 28, 2014 meetings. Dr. Wilson motioned to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2014 and December 28, 2014 meetings as presented; seconded by Mayor Tyler. The motion passed unanimously.

* Ayes: Mr. Bill Altimus – Bossier Parish Police Jury; Dr. Woody Wilson – Caddo Parish Commission; Mayor Lo Walker – City of Bossier City; Mayor Ollie Tyler – City of Shreveport; Mr. Sam Marsiglia – Bossier MPC; Mr. Mark Sweeney – Shreveport MPC; Mr. Gene Eddy – SporTran; Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04
VIII. Public Comments (Non-agenda Items)

Mayor Walker asked the public if anyone would like to make a comment. Commissioner Matthew Linn asked if the counters for the buses count bicycles that are loaded and unloaded. Mr. Eddy commented he did not know, but he did not think they did. Dr. Wilson commented the counters are interior and the bikes are exterior. Mr. Eddy explained how the counters work. Mr. Rogers remarked if there were a few individuals getting on the bus, but the bus staying an extended period of time that it is either an ADA reason or someone loading or unloading a bike. Dr. Wilson asked if Mr. Eddy could take a look into a method to collecting the bicycle information. Mr. Eddy responded yes.

IX. Adjourn

With no further discussions, Dr. Wilson motioned to adjourn with Mr. Eddy seconding. The members adjourned.

/s/ J. Kent Rogers, Secretary