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Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee

MINUTES

Friday, July 22, 2022 (9:00 AM)

NLCOG

625 Texas Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, LA 71101

Members Present

Mr. Dinero' Washington – SporTran
Mrs. Carlotta Askew-Brown – MPC City of Bossier City
Mr. Bruce Blanton – Webster Parish
Mr. Steven Brown – DeSoto Parish
Mr. Eric England – Port of Caddo-Bossier
Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04
Dr. Woodrow Wilson – Caddo Parish
Mayor Tommy Chandler – City of Bossier City
Mayor Adrian Perkins – City of Shreveport

Members Absent

Mr. Alan Clarke – MPC City of Shreveport
Mr. Butch Ford – Bossier Parish

Others Present

Mr. Kent Rogers – NLCOG
Mr. Josh Chevallier – BMKS, legal counsel
Mr. Chris Petro – NLCOG
Mrs. Rita Barnette – NLCOG
Mrs. Savannah Williams – NLCOG

Call to Order

Mrs. Askew-Brown called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Rogers to call the roll. A quorum was present.

Public Comments

Mrs. Askew-Brown called for public comments. Mr. Rogers stated that two request for comments had been turned in first by Mr. John Perkins and second by Mr. Tim Larkin.

Business

1. **Approval of Minutes**

The next item on the agenda was for approval of the minutes of the May 27, 2022 meeting. Dr. Wilson motioned, and Mr. Washington seconded to approve the minutes as provided. Mrs. Askew-Brown called for questions or comments having none the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update

Mr. Rogers introduced the following TIP updates:

DOTD TIP Administrative Modification(s)

H.001779 JIMMIE DAVIS BRIDGE (LA 511) (HBI) - LADOTD PM requests the Construction Phase to the project in FFY2023 rather than FFY2022.

DOTD TIP Amendment(s) for Adoption

H.001799: LA 531 Overpass – LADOTD requests additional Construction Phase funding for the project in FFY2022.

DOTD TIP Amendments Introduction for Public Comments

None at this time.

MPO STP >200 K TIP Amendments & Programing

Linwood Ave Phase 3 & 4: Construction phase FFY 2023.

I-20/I-220 BAFB Gate: Remaining programed over 7 years (\$15m total).

I-69 Service Road: \$10.5 m (200k) \$6.75m (local) \$15m (st/fed).

LA 3276: Match provided by state.

SporTran Transit Transfer: Transfer completed per STIP Amendment 28.

NWLA Regional Aerial Photography: Use of 200k COVID funds at 100%.

No changes from previous

MPO Transit TIP Amendments

None at this time.

Mrs. Askew-Brown entertained a motion to approve these TIP updates as presented Mr. Blanton motioned first, and Dr. Wilson seconded. Mrs. Askew-Brown called for questions or comments. Having none the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

3. Fiscal Year 2023 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Kent Rogers stated that the Fiscal Year 2023 Unified Planning Work Program has been revised by the **UPWP**. The **FHWA** had the following comment:

Revises the Funding by Task tables to include the STP (STBG) and/or COVID>200K funds budgeted for the Regional Aerial Photography project (Task C) and the Funding by Task tables to include the STP (STBG)

and/or COVID>200K funds budgeted for the Regional Aerial Photography project (Task C) and the STP (STBG) >200K funds budgeted for the I-49 ICC Stage 1 project (Task J).

Mr. Rogers had the following response:

The Funding by Task tables to include the STP (STBG) and/or COVID>200K funds budgeted for the Regional Aerial Photography project (Task C) has been revised and updated. Previously the MPO had anticipated the first invoice on this project to be within the Fiscal Year 2022. However, due to the delivery of final product after the beginning of Fiscal Year 2023 these numbers have been revised to reflect the expenses within the UPWP.

The funding tables for the I-49 ICC Stage 1 project (Task J) have been revised to show remain contractual obligations and anticipated staff expenses for the project.

The overall Income tables within the Income and Expenses section (beginning on page 73) have also been revised to reflect the COVID>200k funds and local funds associated with those expenses as well as the Funding by Task tables on page 76.

Mrs. Askew-Brown called for the motion to approve the revisions. Mr. Washington motioned first and Mr. Chandler seconded.

Project Updates

Mrs. Askew-Brown asked Mr. Rogers to move forward with the Project Updates.

4. LA 511 Jimmie Davis Bridge

Mr. Rogers directed the committee's attention to the flyer in the packets. He reviewed the update of actions for the DOTD, Legislative, MPO and Local. The actions by all parties opens the way for design-build of a new modern 4-lane bridge and conversion of the existing bridge into a bike/ped green-space park.

5. LA 3132 (Inner Loop) Extension

Mr. Rogers called the committees attention to a proposed resolution confirming the MPO's preference of Alignment Alternative B2 for the LA 3132 (Inner Loop) Extension. Mr. England ask the purpose of the resolution. Mr. Rogers stated that intention was simply to reiterate to DOTD and FHWA the position the MPO has taken in the past. Mr. Rogers noted that there had been significant change over in staff with BKI and wanted to make sure that the staff on hand was aware of the MPO's stance. Mr. Rogers stated that he recently spoke to new staff. BKI advised Mr. Rogers they would be providing a revised FONSI for NLCOG and DOTD review outlining Alignment Alternative B2 as the preferred. Mr. England asked if there was still a need for the resolution. Mr. Rogers stated that he did not think so based on his conversations with BKI staff. Mr. Ford asked if we had held a public hearing on this. Mr. Rogers stated that the public hearing was delayed due to COVID protocols but that the EA presented included was alternative B2.

Mr. Washington asked if there were any further comments. Mr. Chavallie noted that the issues with the Tim James project were due to their inclusion of language in an agreement with land owners that NLCOG was not made aware of. He further stated that to his knowledge that issue has been resolved. Mr. Washington stated that unless there were other comments he would remove the resolution from

consideration and ask Mr. Rogers to confirm our position to BKI. With no further comments Mr. Washington asked Mr. Rogers to move forward with the agenda.

6. I-49 Inner City Connector Stage 1 Environmental Impact Study

Mr. Rogers stated that DOTD would be scheduling the next Section 106 Consulting Parties meeting in the near future. Mr. Rogers stated that it was vital to move the project forward through this process in order to complete the Draft EIS. Mr. Rogers noted that the 106 process helps to identify the preferred alternative for the Draft EIS. Mr. Rogers stated that Providence has completed as much of the draft as possible without having the Section 106 process completed.

Mr. Rogers stated that Senator Peacock had raised some concerns over funds being moved during the legislative process. Mr. Rogers stated that through efforts of the legislative bodies a MEGA projects fund has been created with sub accounts for I-49 North, I-49 South, the I-10 Calcasieu River Bridge, and the I-10 Baton Rouge Bridge.

Mr. Washington stated that a delegation made up of Mayor Perkins, Mr. England, Representative Bagley, and himself had several meetings in DC with the administration and departments. Mr. Washington stated the covered the I-49 project, I-69, some projects at the port, and other initiatives. He stated that all were well received. Mr. Washington asked if Mr. England would like to add anything.

Mr. England stated that Mr. Washington lead the meetings and we were well represented and that he did a great job representing Northwest Louisiana especially with the roadway projects. He further stated that the port had submitted an INFRA grant request that can be directly attributed to these meetings. He stated that the cost had increased due to COVID and the grant will help to cover those increased cost. Mr. England stated that we had previously been advised to wait and submit during the second round. The message was clear from the Whitehouse and DOT that they can not say yes if we did not have a request in the hopper. Mr. England stated he was glad to move forward rather than rely on the bad advice provided by the engineering firm.

Mr. Washington stated that it was clear from the meetings they were in that it was imperative to get your grant applications in this year. The statement was made that applications that are not funded this year may be funded in future years and there was also the possibility that things may change and they may not receive applications in the future. Mr. Washington reiterated that if you have not gotten your applications in to do so if you still can.

Mr. Washington stated that with the I-49 project FHWA had lead presence in the meetings and that Mayor Perkins met directly with Secretary Buttigieg and that the project was well received. He stated that FHWA and the Secretary are working directly with the office in Baton Rouge to ensure the project is moving forward and that we should receive a ROD sooner than expected. Mr. Washington noted it was good to receive the update earlier.

Mr. Ford if the funding available was enough to move the I-69 frontage road project forward. Mr. England stated that the port has taken the lead on the project with DOTD and that there is a separate agreement outlining the local funding with the funds from the MPO, Caddo Parish, DeSoto Parish and the port. Mr. England stated that in terms of the environmental for the frontage road all that would be required is a categorical exclusion. He further stated that road swap agreements between the two parishes and DOTD were progressing. DeSoto Parish has come to an agreement with DOTD while Caddo Parish was finalizing

their agreement through a local ordinance. Dr. Wilson stated that the long-range committee was set to meet on June 6th and the agreement should be moved favorable to the full commission following.

Mr. Washington stated that in the meetings in DC with DOT/FHWA it was made clear that the I-49 and I-69 projects were not competing projects. He noted that many time locals seem to think these two are competing projects. He stated that the administration wanted to make it clear that there was nothing precluding either project from moving forward and that they want to see both projects done.

Mr. Washington direct Mr. Rogers to the next item on the agenda.

7. LA 511 Jimmie Davis Bridge

Mr. Rogers directed the committee's attention to the flyer in the packets. He stated that the Lt. Governor had agreed to brining the rehabbed bike/ped bridge into the state park system and that the local agree to basic day to day maintenance such as trash pickup, shutting gates, sweeping, etc.

Mr. Ford noted that Bossier Parish and Caddo parish had signed the MOU and that we are now waiting for the cities to sign the agreement but did not foresee any issues. Senator Peacock stated that HB 762 provides leeway for the size of state parks within Caddo and Bossier Parishes.

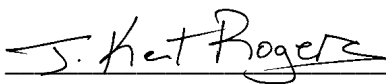
Mr. Washington asked if the members had any comments, having none he asked Mr. Rogers if there were any announcements.

Announcements

Congratulations to Dinero for being named 2022 Transit Operator of the Year and to Dr. Shelly Barrett as a Community Hero for the Bossier Chamber of Commerce Salute to Community Heroes.

Adjourn

With no remaining agenda items, The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. England moved to adjourn; Dr. Wilson seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.



J. Kent Rogers, Secretary