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Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee

MINUTES

Friday, September 30, 2022 (9:00 AM)

NLCOG

625 Texas Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, LA 71101

Members Present

Mrs. Carlotta Askew-Brown – MPC City of Bossier City
Mr. Alan Clarke – MPC City of Shreveport
Mr. Bruce Blanton – Webster Parish
Mr. Steven Brown – DeSoto Parish
Mayor Tommy Chandler – City of Bossier City
Mr. Eric England – Port of Caddo-Bossier
Mr. Butch Ford – Bossier Parish
Mayor Adrian Perkins – City of Shreveport

Members Absent

Dr. Woodrow Wilson – Caddo Parish (Erica Bryant present on behalf of Dr. Wilson, but cannot vote)
Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04
Mr. Dinero' Washington – SporTran

Others Present

Mr. Kent Rogers – NLCOG
Ms. Rita Barnette – NLCOG
Mr. Josh Chevallier – BMKS, legal counsel
Mr. Chris Petro – NLCOG
Dr. Shelly Barrett – NLCOG
Ms. 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 stated there was one public comment request, Mr. Tim Larkin

Mr. Tim Larkin addressed the group in reference to the conclusion of the Environmental Assessment for an extension of LA 3132 (Inner Loop). A written copy of Mr. Larkin's statement is attached.

Business

1. Approval of Minutes

The next item on the agenda was for approval of the minutes of the August 26, 2022, meeting. Mr. Clarke motioned, and Mr. England 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) FY 2023-2026

Mr. Rogers informed the board that the Transportation Improvement Program had been out for 30 days and they have not received any public or general comments. They have however, received a series of comments from the Federal Highway requesting further detail on relationship of performance measures and congestion management process to the project selection process, adding web links to documents online, and additional information on projects associated to system maintenance. Additional comments on naming convention, work type, funding type differences between MPO, TIP and STIP. Mr. Rogers explained that they are addressing these comments, but in order to meet the September 30th, 2022 deadline, they are requesting the adoption of the document with the inclusion of the LA3132 funding. Mr. Rogers also said they would bring a revision at the next meeting that would address the remaining comments.

Mr. Rogers reviewed the Financial Constraint, MPO STBG >200K Summary, as well as the Transit Program Summary. He directed the board to their packets where he has included a detailed chart that shows all information to each project for the FY 2023-2026 for the Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Clark asked for a review of the projects. Mr. Rogers called the committees attention to the STBG >200k program summary. The summary listed projects by fiscal year and fiscal year totals. Mayor Perkins asked when in each fiscal year would projects start. Mr. Rogers stated that letting depends on each projects readiness. Mr. Furlong stated that the two Linwood Ave projects were at approximately 30% plans. Based on that he and Mr. Rogers estimated March/April time frame for letting.

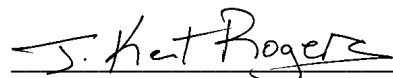
Mrs. Askew-Brown asked if there were further questions. Having none Mrs. Askew-Brown entertained a motion to Adopt the NLCOG 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. England motioned, and Mr. Clarke seconded. Mrs. Askew-Brown called for questions or comments. Having none the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Rogers stated there were no announcements but inquired about Mrs. Askew-Brown's participation in the recent trip to Washington, D.C. Mrs. Askew-Brown said it was extremely beneficial and found great value in it. She hopes to be able to return. She noted that group meet with the delegation and others on issues relevant to our area and received great feedback.

Adjourn

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



J. Kent Rogers, Secretary

My comment is in reference to the conclusion of the Environmental Assessment study for an extension of LA 3132. Specifically, the decision by the MPO to recommend and report a Finding of no significant impact to the Federal Highway Administration.

As I have reported to the MPO before, DOTD has informed us that they propose to close the existing entrance to Esplanade North, Esplanade and Forbing Ranch. They presently propose to relocate the entrance to an existing private driveway owned by the Glen Retirement Center.

Since that time, we have met with DOTD to get an understanding of what is proposed.

Following that meeting we met with NLCOG staff to exchange facts. I reported those meetings to the MPO at the last meeting.

Since the last MPO meeting we were able to meet with representatives of the Glen, present our thoughts about the proposed access relocation and get an understanding of what their preferences are at this time.

Our discussions with the Glen centered on how practical it appears to be, to combine a public access to the Esplanade North, Esplanade and Forbing Ranch properties with their present private gated entrance at the eastern corner of their property. They have just completed extensive improvements to that entrance. One important fact that we do not have is what the DOTD traffic study for this entrance estimated the traffic count to be. Collectively, our observation was that the combination of the Glen's growing population, together with our three properties would produce a significant impact that could well overwhelm the plans that DOTD has for this proposed intersection.

We presently have a meeting rescheduled with DOTD to begin a process of resolving this issue.