

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023
TYLER DEVELOPMENT CENTER, LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
423 WEST FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



Members Present:

Neal Franklin, Vice Chair; Ed Broussard; Darin Jennings; Pam Frederick; Frank Davis, Carolyn Caldwell and Gary Halbrooks.

Members Absent:

Don Warren, Chair; Leslie Black; Dennis Ford and Vernon Webb.

Staff Present:

Michael Howell and Heather Nick.

Others Present:

James Wynne, City of Tyler; Mark Priestner, HALFF Associates; Hiron Fernando, Kimley-Horn; and Abby Axelson, Kimley-Horn.

Neal Franklin called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Gary Halbrooks moved, seconded by Frank Davis, to approve the minutes from March 23, 2023. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Presentation Items:

1. Receive a presentation and accept public comments on the 2022 Annual Project Listing

Mr. Howell presented the item providing a summary of the projects which had federal funds obligated (i.e. spent) on the project during fiscal year 2022. Judge Franklin opened the meeting for public comments. No attendees spoke on the item, and the public comment period was closed.

Action Items:

1. Consider accepting the Downtown Tyler Traffic Study report prepared by Kimley-Horn and Associates

Mr. Howell introduced the item before turning the presentation over to Hiron Fernando to discuss the results of the study. It was recommended to change all streets to two-way traffic movement and to replace all of the traffic signals west of Broadway with stop signs. Mr. Fernando discussed two options for repurposing the right-of-way in downtown Tyler. The first option was Toole Design's proposal to reduce Broadway to two lanes throughout downtown. The second, called the hybrid tapered option, incrementally reduced the number of lanes from four at Front Street to two lanes at the square with mini roundabouts. Mr. Fernando said the results of option one caused the level of service (LOS) to drop to F at peak hour while option two managed congestion at LOS C-D. The accompanying intersection analysis showed that the difference in traffic signal LOS was

negligible when comparing the option two traffic to the current traffic conditions. Mr. Fernando concluded his presentation stating that option two was the recommended design.

Darin Jennings moved, seconded by Pam Frederick, to approve the Downtown Tyler Traffic Study. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

2. Consider approving amendments to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) revising estimated project costs and scheduling

Mr. Howell presented the item showing the latest cost estimates for all projects in the TIP which had doubled. He stated that a combination of inflation, scarcity of materials and lack of available labor has led to a significant increase in estimated construction costs for the projects listed in the long and short-range plans. The proposed amendments showed the increased project costs, the project to upgrade the intersection of Interstate 20 and Highway 69 was delayed and removed from the TIP. The last change was programming new funding through the Carbon Reduction Program which was being used to construct the bicycle and pedestrian elements of the FM 2493 widening project from Flint to Bullard. The remaining Carbon Reduction funds were marked to be used for traffic signal technology improvements. Mr. Howell said that a follow up amendment would be made once the exact scope of the proposed improvements was determined.

Frank Davis moved, seconded by Ed Broussard, to approve the amendments to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

3. Consider adopting the 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) detailing the MPO's budget for the next two fiscal years

Mr. Howell presented the item detailing the major changes from the previous year's budget which included additional costs for two additional staff members, a part time Planning Technician and a full time Transportation Analyst. He mentioned funding allocations being made to hire consultants for a Metropolitan Transportation Plan and a light rail study.

Gary Halbrooks moved, seconded by Frank Davis, to approve the FY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Staff Updates:

1. Director's Report

Mr. Howell provided status updates on the Travel Demand Model and Railroad Inventory. He notified the Committee about upcoming funding related to the Texas Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan. Lastly he provided an update on the training opportunity called Safe Streets for Texas (SS4T) which could be scheduled for June and asked if any attendees were interested in participating. The consensus was that the members would respond to Mr. Howell individually if interested.

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates

Mr. Howell provided notice of the upcoming Technical Advisory Committee meeting on July 6, 2023 and the next Transportation Policy Committee meeting scheduled on July 27, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.