

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023  
REGULAR MEETING, TDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM  
423 W. FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



**Members Present:**

Michael Howell, Cameron Williams, Kyle Kingma, Jimmy Toler, Leroy Sparrow, Paul Schneider, Adrienne Leach and Colleen Colby.

**Others Present:**

Hiron Fernando, Kimley-Horn (virtual); and Gaylord Hughey, attorney.

**Michael Howell called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

Kyle Kingma moved, seconded by Jimmy Toler, to approve the minutes from March 2, 2023. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**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.

Adrienne Leach asked if there would be pedestrian features to help people cross at the roundabouts. Mr. Fernando discussed the benefits the roundabouts provided which allowed the street to be narrowed two lanes instead of two lanes plus a left turn lane which would be required in traffic signals were used. He said that narrowing the distance that pedestrians needed to cross in addition to the lower speeds, typically fifteen miles per hour, moving through the roundabout made it preferable.

Leroy Sparrow moved, seconded by Cameron Williams, 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.

Adrienne Leach clarified that part of the reason for the project cost increase for I-20 and Highway 69 was due to an increase of the scope which was now including the pavement for widening this section of I-20 to six lanes.

Kyle Kingma asked if the cost for all projects listed in the MPO's long-range plan had gone up or if it was just the ones being discussed. Mr. Howell said that all projects had been impacted.

Cameron Williams moved, seconded by Jimmy Toler, 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.

Colleen Colby moved, seconded by Adrienne Leach, to approve the FY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**Staff Updates:**

**1. MPO 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 in interested.

**2. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

Mr. Howell provided notice of the upcoming Policy Committee Meeting on May 25, 2023 and the next Technical Advisory Committee meeting scheduled on July 6, 2023.

**The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.**