

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023
REGULAR MEETING, TDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
423 W. FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



Members Present:

Michael Howell, Cameron Williams, Kyle Kingma, Burren Reed, Leroy Sparrow, Eric Fisher, Mike Butler

Others Present:

Ethan Sukiennik, City of Tyler, Jeff Whitacre, Kimley-Horn.

Michael Howell called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Leroy Sparrow moved, seconded by Kyle Kingma, to approve the minutes from July 6, 2023. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Presentation Items:

1. Receive presentation from Kimley-Horn regarding TxDOT's Statewide Active Transportation Plan

Jeff Whitacre gave an overview of TxDOT's Statewide Active Transportation Plan. Mr. Whitacre explained that TxDOT is undertaking a first-time effort to develop a comprehensive Statewide Active Transportation Plan. This active transportation plan will provide infrastructure recommendations for improving conditions for bicycling, walking, rolling, or other modes that are typically human-powered, non-motorized transportation. The plan may also include recommendations to better accommodate smaller electric-powered micro-mobility options such as e-scooters and e-bikes.

The plan will inform decisions to help connect people to where they want to go, whether they use active transportation for the whole trip or just a part of it, such as the walk to a bus stop, the bike ride to work or using a wheelchair to meet daily needs. It will establish priorities and policies through 2050 and prioritize improvements in places of highest need. Performance metrics to monitor progress will also be developed.

Mr. Whitacre asked those in attendance what areas of improvement are most important to them. Mike Butler talked about how increased connectivity for bike riders was an improvement he would most like to see.

Action Items:

1. Consider approving amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to revise the percentage of Federal versus State funds being allocated toward the widening of FM 2493 (Old Jacksonville Hwy) to six lanes from Loop 323 to FM 2813

Mr. Howell presented the item stating the purpose of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is to list the transportation projects that are scheduled to be implemented within the next four fiscal years. The TIP is updated every two years and contains a listing of highway projects, transit projects and various maintenance projects scheduled to be let for construction within the Metropolitan Planning Organization boundary. The TIP also identifies major projects that are in the engineering or right-of-way purchasing phases of development. The current TIP was approved on May 26, 2022.

This amendment is to correct an administrative error in the funding allocations for the 6-lane widening of FM 2493, Old Jacksonville Highway. The project is schedule to receive \$113 million from the State's Strategic Priority fund (Cat 12). That amount was incorrectly reported to the MPO as being 100% coming from the State, no federal funds. That has been corrected, revising the funding split to 80% federal and 20% state funds. No changes to the scope, schedule or total project cost are being proposed with this amendment.

Federal Highway Administration regulations require that any project whose federal funding allocation increase by 50% must go through the full public involvement process. In accordance with the MPO's Public Participation Plan, a public open house was conducted to gather input about the proposed amendments. The open house was conducted on October 24, 2023 which satisfies the minimum 10-day public comment window for the TIP.

Kyle Kingma moved, seconded by Eric Fisher, to approve the amendments to the TIP. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

2. Consider amending the 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to allocate funds to complete the Railroad Inventory and Analysis

Mr. Howell presented the item stating that the Texas Administrative Code requires MPOs to document planning activities in a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to indicate who will perform the work, the schedule for completing it, and all products that will be produced. The current UPWP covers fiscal years 2024-2025 and was adopted by the Policy Committee on May 25, 2023.

In fiscal year 2023 the MPO hired HDR Engineering, to complete a Railroad Inventory and Analysis. The project was kicked off in FY 23 but will be completed in FY 24. The contact total for the project is \$150,000 and \$64,223 was billed in FY 23. The proposed amendment is to allocate the remaining \$85,777 of the contract to the fiscal year 2024 budget.

Kyle Kingma asked if the funds for the project would be taken out of the FY 2024 budget. Mr. Howell explained that the initial funding for the project would roll over from the previous fiscal year, therefore it will not take funding from other projects.

Cameron Williams moved, seconded by Kyle Kingma, to approve the amendments to the UPWP. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Staff Updates:

1. MPO Director's Report

Mr. Howell provided status updates on the Railroad Inventory and MTP Update. Mr. Howell explained that the process for updating the long-range plan has been started. Mr. Howell gave an update on the environmental clearance process for segment 6 of Toll 49.

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates

Mr. Howell provided notice of the upcoming Policy Committee Meeting on November 16, 2023 and the next Technical Advisory Committee meeting scheduled on January 4, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.