

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023
TYLER DEVELOPMENT CENTER, LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
423 WEST FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



Members Present:

Don Warren, Chair; Ed Broussard; Darin Jennings; Carolyn Caldwell; Neal Franklin; Pam Frederick; Gary Halbrooks, and Vernon Webb.

Members Absent:

Leslie Black; Dennis Ford and Frank Davis.

Staff Present:

Michael Howell and Ethan Sukiennik.

Others Present:

James Wynne, City of Tyler; Bob Westbrook, City of Tyler; John Landes, Tyler ISD; Yolanda Prince, citizen; LouAnn Campbell, City of Tyler; and JD Cotton, KLTV.

Don Warren called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Gary Halbrooks moved, seconded by Darin Jennings, to approve the minutes from May 25, 2023. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Action Items:

1. Consider approving amendments to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to program funding for Carbon Reduction projects

Mr. Howell introduced the item The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) has allocated funding to states through the Carbon Reduction Program. This funding may not be used for road widening projects but can be used to enhance technology and construct bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. It is estimated that Tyler Area MPO will receive \$6.5 million dollars over 10 years to implement these projects. In coordination with City of Tyler and TxDOT district staff, a list of projects has been proposed for the first four years of the program.

- FY 2024 – Bike and ped infrastructure on FM 2493 (currently programmed)
- FY 2025 – Traffic signal technology upgrades at intersections around downtown Tyler
- FY 2026 – Camera replacement at intersections around the MPO
- FY 2027 – Pedestrian infrastructure at key intersections in Tyler

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 June 22, 2023 which satisfies the minimum 30-day public comment window for the MTP and 10-day public comment window for the TIP.

Don Warren asked if all funds were being programmed. Mr. Howell said that funding was programmed for the first four years of the ten-year program, and that an amendment would need to be made for the remaining funds when projects were identified.

Neal Franklin moved, seconded by Vernon Webb, to approve the amendments to the MTP and TIP. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

2. Consider amending the 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to allocate costs to acquire railroad data from Union Pacific

Mr. Howell presented the item stating that HDR Engineering, the consultants for the Railroad Inventory and Analysis (Task 5.3), has requested network data from Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) including train schedules and routes. UPRR has stated that they are willing to share the data, but are requiring the MPO to enter into a reimbursement agreement to pay UPRR for the staff time to gather, consolidate and review the data before sharing it. UPRR is requesting an agreement for \$10,000 which UPRR will bill against to provide consulting services for our request. This expense must be included in the FY 22-23 UPWP before funding can be authorized.

Funding for staff salaries and training is programmed into Task 1 of the UPWP. Additional funds were programmed into Task 1 in FY 2023 to account for a transportation analyst position which has not yet been filled. This has created a surplus in Task 1 funding. Staff's proposal is to reallocate \$10,000 from Task 1.1 to Task 5.3 to cover the costs of the UPRR agreement.

Darin Jennings moved, seconded by Pam Frederick, to approve the amendments to the amendments to the UPWP. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Staff Updates:

1. Director's Report

Mr. Howell provided status updates on the Travel Demand Model, Railroad Inventory, and notified the Committee that a Request for Qualifications was being published to hire a consultant to develop the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates

Mr. Howell provided notice of the upcoming Technical Advisory Committee meeting on September 7, 2023 and the next Transportation Policy Committee meeting scheduled on September 21, 2023. He noted that no items were currently scheduled for the meeting, and it could be cancelled.

The meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.