

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024  
REGULAR MEETING, TDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM  
423 W. FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



**Members Present:**

Michael Howell, Ethan Sukiennik, Kyle Kingma, Jimmy Toler, Burren Reed, Leroy Sparrow, Doug Nicholson, Paul Schneider, Colleen Colby

**Others Present:**

Amy Downey, TxDOT; Dylan McCord, TxDOT; Darin Jennings, City of Tyler; Darrel Kotzur, City of Tyler; John Waltz, MHS

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

Doug Nicholson moved, seconded by Jimmy Toler, to approve the minutes from May 2, 2024.  
Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**Action Items:**

**1. Consider approving amendments Unified Planning Work Program related to the required amount of resources programmed for Complete Streets Planning**

Michael Howell explained that Tyler Transit receives federal funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for planning activities. FTA has a numeric designation for these funds which is 5307. Tyler Transit has 5307 dollars that have been authorized for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 which are eligible to be programmed in the current budget. Because these are federal planning dollars, FTA is requiring that the funding be documented in the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Leroy Sparrow moved, seconded by Jimmy Toler, to approve the amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program.

Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**Discussion Items:**

**1. Receive a presentation on the progress made toward adopting a new Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the proposed methods for scoring projects**

Michael Howell gave a presentation on the proposed scoring methodology that will be used to evaluate projects in the updated MTP. Furthermore, he asked members of the Committee to provide feedback on the proposed scoring method. He explained that the projects would be evaluated based on the following categories:

1. Improve Safety and Security
2. Increase Connections and Access
3. Improve Airport Access
4. Reduce Congestion
5. Support Land Use Goals
6. Encourage Environmental Stewardship and Resilience
7. Preserve Existing System
8. Improve Public Transportation
9. Encourage Cycling
10. Encourage Walking
11. Enhance Economic Development
12. Guarantee Equitable Transportation Improvements
13. Project Readiness

After listening to the methodology for “Increase Connections and Access,” Darin Jennings commented that while continuous left turn lanes provide greater access and connection, they can be dangerous. Paul Schneider commented that scoring projects with a continuous left turn lane should remain a criterion since it increases connection.

Kyle Kingma asked if it would be best to add additional parameters to the scoring methodology for “Improve Airport Access.” After some discussion, Michael Howell stated that staff will reanalyze the methodology using half points instead of whole points.

After listening to the methodology for “Support Land Use Goals,” Kyle Kingma suggested that projects that received points based on their distance to a hospital should be based on a 1.5-mile radius instead of 1 mile. Burren Reed suggested that trauma centers should also contribute to the score instead of the scoring being based strictly on traditional hospitals. Michael Howell stated that the methodology would be updated based on the suggested changes.

Doug Nicholson asked if projects in the “Encourage Environmental Stewardship and Resilience” were scored using the floodway or the floodplain. Ethan Sukiennik stated that the analysis was performed using the floodway. Kyle Kingma stated that it may be best to utilize the floodplain instead of the floodway, as the floodplain is more overarching. Members of the Committee agreed that it would be best to use the floodplain for the analysis.

Darin Jennings asked if it would be best to give full points to projects with biking facilities on most of the project instead of the entire project for the “Encourage Cycling” category. Michael Howell stated that a majority of the biking facilities ran alongside the entirety of the project.

Paul Schneider suggested giving points to projects that the Lindale Economic Development Council considers major employers for the “Enhance Economic Development”

**Staff Updates:**

**1. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

Mr. Howell provided notice of the upcoming Policy Committee Meeting on July 25, 2024, and the next Technical Advisory Committee meeting scheduled on September 12, 2024.

**The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.**