

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024
TYLER DEVELOPMENT CENTER, LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
423 WEST FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



Members Present:

Don Warren, Chair; Ed Broussard; Darin Jennings; Carolyn Caldwell; Dee Roden; Neal Franklin; and Vernon Webb

Members Absent:

Pam Frederick; Gary Halbrooks; Frank Davis; Leslie Black.

Staff Present:

Michael Howell; Heather Nick; and Ethan Sukiennik.

Others Present:

Gaylord Hughey, Attorney; Cody Bain, City of Tyler

Don Warren called the meeting to order at 2:02 P.M.

Approval of Minutes:

Darin Jennings moved, seconded by Ed Broussard, to approve the minutes from May 23, 2024. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Action Items:

1. Consider approving amendments to the FY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program related to Federal Transit Administration 5307 funding for Transit 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).

Ed Broussard moved, seconded by Neal Franklin, 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 proposed revisions to project descriptions

Michael Howell explained that MPO staff has developed a draft methodology to prioritize projects which was presented to the Technical Advisory Committee on July 11, 2024. The Technical Advisory Committee recommended minor adjustments to the methodologies for Improve Airport Access, Supports Land Use Goals, and Encourage Environmental Stewardship which have been incorporated into the scoring process.

Furthermore, he explained that the next steps are to update project descriptions to further clarify the scope of the projects, such as if there are improvements to pedestrian and bicycle facilities. He highlighted two project descriptions that were proposed to be reduced in scope.

HWY	FROM	TO	CURRENT DESCRIPTION	NEW DESCRIPTION
FM 14	SL 323 ENE	Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard	Widen from 2 lanes to 4 lanes with flush median	Widen to 2 lanes with flush median, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities
SL 124	SH 31	SH 64	Widen from 2 lanes to 4 lanes with flush median and improve SH 64 intersection	Widen to 2 lanes with flush median, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities

Mayor Warren asked where the bicycle and pedestrian facilities would be located. Michael Howell stated that they would likely be located separately from the street.

Vernon Webb stated that many businesses use the Right of Way alongside Old Henderson Highway for parking, so the proposed improvements could affect them.

The Committee gave consensus on moving forward with the new project descriptions.

Staff Updates:

1. Director's Report

Michael Howell Stated that the MPO turns 50 this August, and a celebration to commemorate the last 50 years is planned for August 14th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Rose Garden.

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates

Mr. Howell provided notice of the upcoming Technical Advisory Committee meeting on September 12, 2024, and the next Transportation Policy Committee meeting scheduled on September 26, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 2:21 P.M.