

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025
TYLER DEVELOPMENT CENTER, LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
423 WEST FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



Members Present:

Don Warren, Chair; Ed Broussard; Darin Jennings; Neal Franklin; Frank Davis; Vernon Webb; Leslie Black; Dee Roden; and Christina Drewry

Members Absent:

Carolyn Caldwell; and Gary Halbrooks

Staff Present:

Michael Howell; Heather Nick; Rupini RV; and Joyce-Lynn Davis.

Others Present:

Alex de Rovel, citizen

Don Warren called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M.

Approval of Minutes:

Ed Broussard moved, seconded by Frank Davis to approve the minutes from November 21, 2024. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Action Items:

1. Consider adopting 2025 Safety (PM1) Targets

Mr. Howell introduced the item stating that safety performance is required to be reviewed annually, and new targets be adopted based on the latest performance data. Should a state fail to meet its safety targets, the state must obligate HSIP funds in the amount apportioned for the prior year only for HSIP projects and submit an HSIP Implementation Plan to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for review. The implementation plan must describe the actions the State will undertake to achieve or make significant progress towards achieving the State's safety performance targets in subsequent years. This requirement could affect available funding for projects listed in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Dr. Rupini continued the presentation saying the most recent complete data set for safety performance is for 2023. The data for this year shows a new record high on the number of fatalities while the number of serious injuries decreased. There was also a high number of non-motorized (pedestrian and bicycle) crashes in 2023. The rate of fatalities is showing a steady increase over time while the rate of serious injuries is showing a sharp decline.

Motion by Neal Franklin, seconded by Frank Davis to approve the 2025 safety targets.

Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

2. Consider approving an amendment to the FY24 and FY24 Unified Planning Work Program to allocate additional funds to Task 4.1 to pay the remainder of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan consulting contract with ATG.

Mr. Howell presented the item stating that TxDOT collects data on infrastructure conditions and system performance and shares the information with MPOs through TxDOT's Transportation Planning and Programming (TP&P) division. TxDOT reviews PM2 and PM3 every two years and adjusts accordingly.

During the last review, TxDOT made one change to PM2 targets, increasing the Percentage of Pavements of the Non- Interstate NHS in Poor Condition 4-year target from 1.5% to 2.5%. All other targets remained the same.

Motion by Ed Broussard and seconded by Darin Jennings for the adoption of the 2025 bridge and pavement conditions (PM2) and system performance (PM3) targets.

Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

3. Consider approving amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to program authorized funding for Tyler Transit.

Mr. Howell explained that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has notified Tyler Transit that they have been authorized additional funding through FTA's Urbanized Area Formula Grant which is designated as 5307 funding. Tyler Transit is also redistributing funding to be spent between fiscal years 2025 and 2026.

While Tyler Transit is authorized to use the funding, the dollars must be programmed in the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) before they are allowed spend the funds.

Motioned by Darin Jennings and seconded by Ed Broussard to approve the amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program and Unified Planning Work Program.

Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Staff Updates:

1. MPO Director's Report

Michael Howell gave an update on the Light Rail Study. He stated that a team has been formed to grade the proposals and interview the consultant teams. The contract is expected to be presented to the Tyler City Council for approval on January 22nd.

Mr. Howell also shared that TxDOT is accepting preliminary applications for their Transportation Alternative grant program which are due by February 21st. All agencies

submitting applications are strongly encouraged to share their preliminary application with the MPO staff to ensure the description and cost is correctly listed in the MTP. This step will award the application more points.

Finally, Mr. Howell concluded that the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) is the national organization for transportation planning professionals has appointed Michael Howell to serve on the organization's Technical Committee.

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates

Mr. Howell provided notice of the upcoming Policy Committee Meeting on May 22, 2025, and the next Technical Advisory Committee meeting scheduled on May 1, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.