

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025
REGULAR MEETING, TDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
423 W. FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



Members Present:

Cameron Williams, Cody Bain, Leroy Sparrow, Doug Nicholson, Paul Schneider, Colleen Colby, Adrienne Leach

Staff Present:

Michael Howell, Joyce Davis

Others Present:

Gaylord Hughey; citizen

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

Approval of Minutes:

Colleen Colby moved, seconded by Leroy Sparrow to approve the minutes from January 15, 2025. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Discussion Items:

1. Consider adopting the FY 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Howell introduced the item, stating that the Texas Administrative Code requires MPOs to document planning activities in a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which indicates who will perform the work, the schedule for completing it, and all products that will be produced.

There's a proposed range of work items and budgets to satisfy the planning activities required to address federal and state planning regulations and to address regional planning needs. It should be noted that the revenue presented is forecasted. The actual funding will vary based on economic conditions and could affect the work items listed.

Next, Mr. Howell explains the Task 5 – Special Studies, which has \$150,000 allocated each year in FY 2026 and 2027 to hire a consultant for a project. The projects to be implemented have not yet been selected. The staff has identified potential projects and is asking the TAC to recommend one project for each fiscal year.

After discussion by the TAC, the group came to consensus on recommending one project be conducted over the next two years which was the East Grande Boulevard extension from SH 110 to FM 848 and increase the budget from \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Motion by Cameron Williams, seconded by Colleen Colby to approve the FY 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with the East Grande Boulevard extension from SH 110 to FM 848 to begin work in FY 2026 with a total cost of \$200,000.

Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

2. Consider approving an amendment to the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to identify grant projects for Transportation Alternative funding.

Mr. Howell presented the item stating that Federal law requires that all MPOs adopt a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The MTP is a 25-year, long-range transportation plan which serves as a guide to plan for future transportation needs and to program the expenditure of federal, state, and local funds that are forecasted to become available over the life of the plan. The current MTP was adopted on December 4, 2024.

TxDOT administers the Transportation Alternative (TA) Set-Aside grant, which requires an application to be submitted to construct a pedestrian construction project. TxDOT had a February deadline for preliminary applications for TA projects. Three applications were made by entities in the MPO boundary: the City of Tyler, Tyler ISD, and UT Tyler.

The purpose of this amendment is to update the MTP to reflect the project information listed in the preliminary applications. Having the projects listed in the MTP will award the projects more points when they are being scored by TxDOT against other grant applications submitted.

Motion by Doug Nicholson and seconded by Cameron Williams to approve the amendment to the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to identify grant projects for Transportation Alternative funding.

Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Staff Updates:

1. MPO Director's Report

Mr. Howell gave the TAC an update on best practices and what to expect regarding grant funding changes coming from the new federal administration.

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 July 3, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.