

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025
TYLER DEVELOPMENT CENTER, LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
423 WEST FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



Members Present:

Ed Broussard; Darin Jennings; Carolyn Caldwell; Neal Franklin; Frank Davis; Shane Cunningham; Gary Halbrooks; Dee Roden; and Christina Drewry

Members Absent:

Leslie Black; and Don Warren

Staff Present:

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

Others Present:

Dale Booth, Barlett & West; Jeff Millslagle, TISD; Bonnie Davis, UT Tyler; Shonda Marsh, COT Council Member; Bryan Barrow, KETK.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Gary Halbrooks moved, seconded by Frank Davis to approve the minutes from January 23, 2025. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Action Items:

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

Dr. Rupini RV introduced what 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.

Dr. Rupini RV continued the presentation by reviewing the following projects that were presented to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC met on May 1, 2025, and came to the consensus that the East Grande Boulevard, Old Omen Road, and Toll 49 Extension Route Study was the most important project. The TAC recommendation was to set a budget of \$200,000 for the project and to kick off the study in FY 2026. Given the proposed cost of the study, no consultant work is being proposed at this time in FY 2027.

Motion by Darin Jennings, seconded by Carolyn Caldwell to approve the 2025 FY 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

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

Dr. Rupini RV presented the next item stating what the 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 Ed Broussard and seconded by Shane Cunningham for the amendments 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

Michael Howell gave an update on the Light Rail Study. The consultant team held the first two stakeholder meetings earlier this month. They are reviewing the comments and continuing their analysis of our area. The team will meet with the stakeholder groups again in late July or early August.

Mr. Howell also shared that the MPO operates under a contract signed by TxDOT, the MPO, and the City of Tyler who serves as the MPO's fiscal agent. The current contract is set to expire on September 30, 2025. The staff has been working with members of the TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming division to come to a consensus on terms for the new agreement. The staff will be presenting an item to approve the new contract at an upcoming Policy Committee meeting and at the Tyler City Council before the September deadline.

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates

Mr. Howell provided notice of the upcoming Technical Advisory Meeting on July 10, 2025, and the next Policy Committee meeting scheduled on July 24, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.