

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025
REGULAR MEETING, TDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
423 W. FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



Members Present:

Cameron Williams, Leroy Sparrow, Doug Nicholson, Colleen Colby, Jimmy Toler, Cody Bain, Stephanie Franklin

Staff Present:

Michael Howell, Joyce Davis

Others Present:

Gaylord Hughey, citizen; Melissa Sellars, COT Asst. Transit Manager; Josh Fulton, TxDOT Asst Area Engineer

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

Approval of Minutes:

Doug Nicholson moved, seconded by Collen Colby to approve the minutes from July 10, 2025. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Action Items

1. Consider approving the Light Rail Study report developed by Kimley-Horn and Associates

Michael Howell opened the meeting by recollecting back in January 2025, the Tyler Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) engaged Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to conduct a Light Rail Study for Smith County. The study aimed to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a limited trolley system connecting midtown and downtown Tyler via the Union Pacific rail lines, while also developing a long-term vision for linking the area to the proposed high-speed rail system along the I-20 corridor. The final report would outline specific goals, actionable steps for implementation, and identify potential funding sources to support the envisioned transit improvements.

To develop a community-driven vision for the study, staff established both short-range and long-range steering committees composed of diverse community stakeholders. These groups met three times throughout the spring and summer to help guide the visioning process.

According to Mr. Howell, the MPO and Kimley-Horn engaged the public through an interactive website that featured a survey to gauge interest in future rail service and a map tool for users to leave location-specific comments. With excitement Mr. Howell gave the results that the site received 720 survey responses and 259 map comments. Public outreach concluded with a virtual town hall held on September 22, which was attended by 24 participants.

Stephanie Franklin raised concerns about what are the next steps and which entities are going to be held responsible for costs and management of the project.

Motion by Stephanie Franklin to approve the Light Rail Study and that the Policy Committee discuss which agencies will be involved with the next steps, seconded by Doug Nicholson. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

2. Consider approving the 2025 Title VI Plan developed by the MPO staff

Next, Michael Howell explained that the Tyler Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), is a recipient of federal transportation funding, and is required to comply with all federal regulations related to non-discrimination under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Civil Rights Division of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) periodically reviews the MPO's Title VI Plan and provides feedback to ensure continued adherence as federal regulations evolve.

Mr. Howell mentioned in the summer of 2025, the MPO staff was contacted by the Civil Rights Division of TxDOT and provided with feedback on updating the Title VI Plan to align with new federal directives and improve public accessibility. In response, MPO staff reviewed Title VI Plans from other Texas MPOs and collaborated with Tyler Transit, as well as the City of Tyler's Legal and Human Resources departments, to develop a revised plan that meets all federal requirements.

Motion by Colleen Colby to consider approving the 2025 Title VI Plan developed by the MPO staff, seconded by Doug Nicholson. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Staff Updates:

1. MPO Director's Report

Grande, Old Omen, Toll 49 Route Study

The staff received statements of qualifications from 6 consultant firms. The grading committee scored HDR as being the top candidate. The next step is to take the contract with HDR to the Tyler City Council on November 12 to authorize the funding.

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates

Mr. Howell provided notice of the upcoming Policy Committee Meeting on November 20, 2025 and the next Technical Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for January 8, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.